美味しんぼ

1

雁屋 哲
花咲アキラ

スピリッツコミックス好評発売中／

美味しんぼ（雁屋哲・花咲アキラ）… 1～31集
なぜか笑介（聖日出夫）…… 1～28集
F〈エフ〉（六田登）…… 1～22集
YAWARA！（浦沢直樹）…… 1～18集
マドンナ（くじらいいく子）…… 1～17集
ジパング少年（いわしげ孝）…… 1～10集
ツルモク独身寮（窪之内英策）…… 1～9集
神の左手悪魔の右手（楳図かずお）… 1～6集
男樹（本宮ひろ志）…… 1～6集
出直しといで！（一色まこと）…… 1～4集
天使派リョウ（狩撫麻礼・中村真理子）…… 1～5集
以蔵のキモチ（佐藤宏之）…… 1～3集
14歳（楳図かずお）…… 1～3集
イオナ（澤井健）…… 1集
赤い弾丸（安部譲二・岸山直）…… 1集
りびんぐゲーム（星里もちる）…… 1集

装丁／海野一雄
カバー・フォト／峰村 孝

美味しんぼ

1 豆腐と水

作・雁屋 哲
画・花咲アキラ

BIG COMICS

美味しんぼ

1

豆腐と水

作・雁屋 哲 画・花咲アキラ

小学館
BC751

BIG COMICS

美味しんぼ

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◆

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BC751

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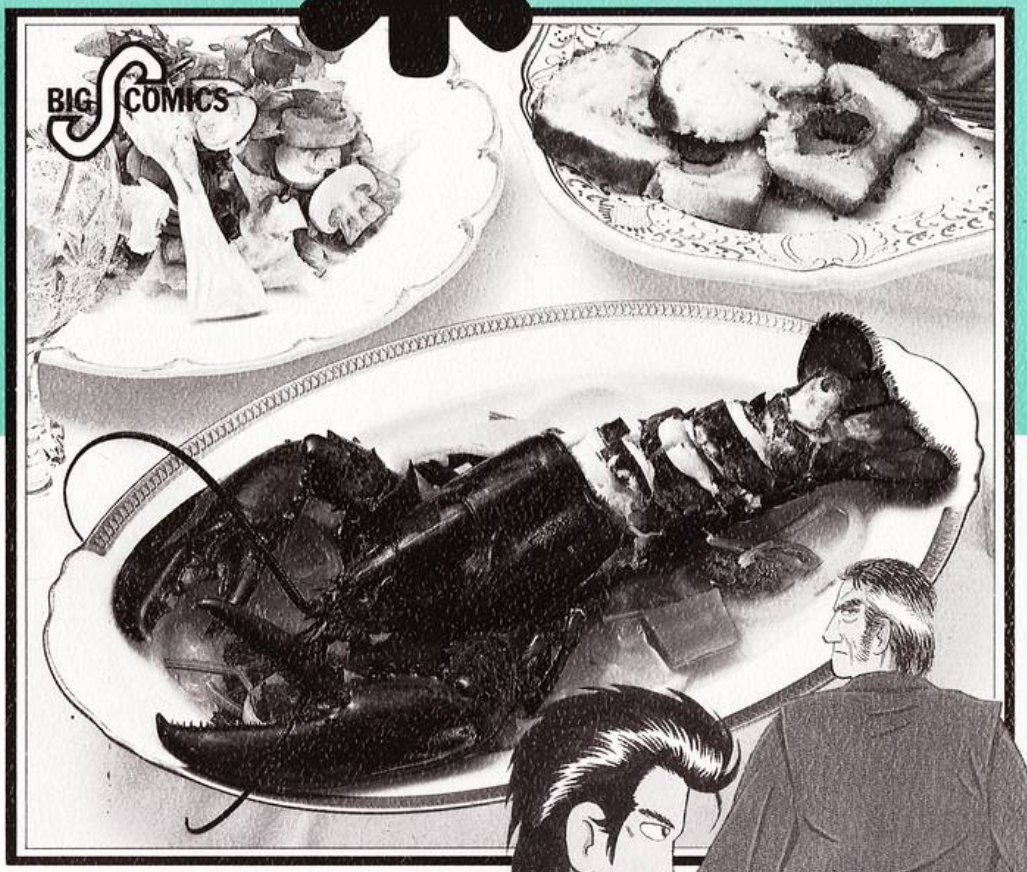
■ビッグコミックス

美味しんぼ……Ⅰ～31集発売中

■スピリッツコミックス好評発売中／■

めぞん一刻（高橋留美子）……全15巻
妻をめとらば（柳沢きみお）……全15巻
傷追い人（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全11巻
Cryingフリーマン（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全9巻
赤い鳩〈アビル〉（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全6巻
OFFERED（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全4巻
二匹のブル（瀬叩龍・岩重孝）……全10巻
わたしは真悟（楳図かずお）……全10巻
あさってDANCE（山本直樹）……全7巻
はっぱ64（山本直樹）……全3巻
キスより簡単（石坂啓）……全6巻
夢みるトマト（石坂啓）……全6巻
アレルギー戦士（石坂啓）……全1巻
MONEY MOON（石坂啓）……全3巻
スローニン（吉田聡）……全4巻
両国花錦闘士（岡野玲子）……全4巻
ガルルル（むつ利之）……全2巻
ZERO（松本大洋）……全2巻
ハーフな分だけ（星里もちる）……全2巻
りざべーしょんプリーズ（細野不二彦）全2巻
あどりぶシネ倶楽部（細野不二彦）……全1巻
うにばーしてぃBOYS（細野不二彦）全1巻
かぼちゃ白書（六田登・タモツ）……全1巻
座・スターダスト（国友やすゆき）…全1巻
美紅・舞子（西村しのぶ）……全1巻
胡桃（佐藤宏之）……全1巻

美味(おい)しんぼ



1 豆腐と水

作・雁屋 哲
画・花咲アキラ

1 豆腐と水

手前・オマール・ブイール（オマールエビの香草煮），右・フォアグラ・ブリオッシュ，左・サラダ・ベール。　〈調理・まっくろう〉

美味(おい)しんぼ

美味しんぼ（おいしい）

1 豆腐と水

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第1話
豆腐と水

ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ

東西新聞社
ブオオオ

東西新聞社
通用口

OH, OISHINBO
①1

女性部

MY DREAM...
THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER!

.....

コト

I GOTTA GET GOOD ENOUGH TO WRITE ARTICLES SOON, TOO! YEAH!

BUT THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF THINGS I GOTTA LEARN...

美味しんぼ 1

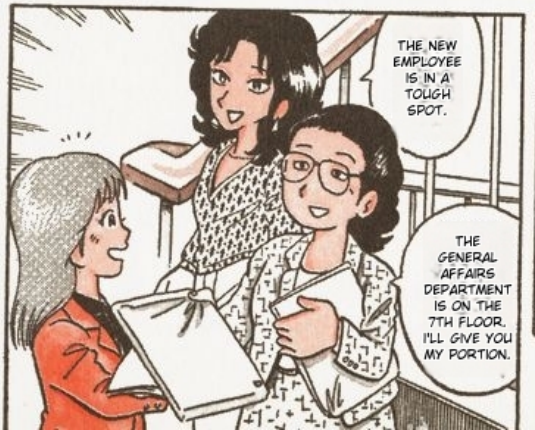
.....
WHA- YOU'RE FROM THE... CULTURE DEPARTMENT?
"SIGH"... SO LIGHT-HEADED...
OH, I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE YOU COMING...
UH... I'M SO SORRY!
WOW, IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE... I DIDN'T GET ENOUGH SLEEP, MAN.
SHIRO YAMAOKA (27), CULTURE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE
ブルブル
OH, I'M KURITA, A NEW EMPLOYEE WHO JUST GOT ASSIGNED TO THE CULTURE DEPARTMENT AFTER GOING THROUGH TRAINING FOR TWO DAYS...
NICE TO MEET YOU.
WHOA... YOU SMELL LIKE BOOZE.

LAST NIGHT, I HAD SOME DRINKS...
I GOT LAZY AND ENDED UP STAYING AT THE OFFICE INSTEAD OF GOING HOME, YOU KNOW?
MMM~~
OH MY GOSH!!
W-WAIT, THAT'S A RAG!
OH, SORRY, SORRY... I'LL MAKE SURE TO RINSE AND DRY IT PROPERLY...
HUH?!
NO, IT'S NOT THAT. YOUR DIRTY FACE JUST MAKES IT WORSE...
I'M SOOOO TIRED...

HEY, YOU! THIS TAPE HAS AN INTERVIEW WITH THE FAMOUS CRITIC 'SOYBEAN GIRL'.
AND MAKE SURE TO TRANSCRIBE THIS TAPE FOR ME.
文化部

HERE YOU GO, MANUSCRIPT PAPER.
SURE THING!
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF MANUSCRIPT PAPER. GO GET SOME FROM THE GENERAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

HAHAHA, OUR DEPARTMENT MANAGER IS PRACTICALLY A SEMI-PRO...
HEY, CAN YOU MAKE A COPY OF THIS FOR ME?
Y-YES.
YOU KNOW, IN THE END, I WAS THE ONE WHO RAISED HIM, YOU KNOW...


THE NEW EMPLOYEE IS IN A TOUGH SPOT.
THE GENERAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT IS ON THE 7TH FLOOR. I'LL GIVE YOU MY PORTION.

...PHEW.
FIRST THINGS FIRST, I NEED SOME MANUSCRIPT PAPER. WHAT FLOOR WAS THE GENERAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT ON AGAIN...

DELICIOUS!!

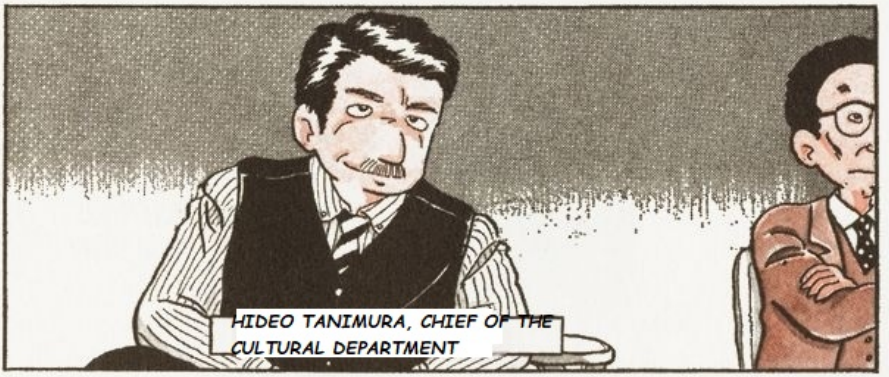
SERIOUSLY, IT'S UNFORGIVABLE TO ASSIGN SUCH MENIAL TASKS TO FEMALE EMPLOYEES.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YOU GOTTA GIVE IT YOUR ALL, KURITA-SAN. WE WOMEN HAVE TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER.
AFTER ALL, WE'RE NOT HERE TO BE THE LACKEYS OF MALE EMPLOYEES...
WE SHOULD BE GIVEN WORK OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOWCASE OUR TALENTS AS FEMALE EMPLOYEES, YOU KNOW.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I STUDIED SOCIOLOGY IN COLLEGE FOR THIS...IT'S SO FRUSTRATING.
EXACTLY! JUST LIKE TABATA SAID.
GOOD MORNING!
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YESTERDAY'S ORDER FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD, RIGHT?
HEY THERE, VICE PRESIDENT, GOOD MORNING!
ﾌﾌﾌﾌ
日刊競馬

GATHER EVERYONE AT 'SHIRAFAN'!!!
FOR TODAY'S LUNCH, WE WILL HOLD A LUNCH MEETING AT THE RESTAURANT 'SHIRAFAN'. GOT IT? IT'S A BUSINESS ORDER.
ACCORDING TO THE BOSS, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME INTERESTING TWIST.
NO: "HMM, INTERESTING."
BUT WHY SUDDENLY HAVE A LUNCH MEETING...
LUNCH AT 'SHIRAFAN' ISN'T A BAD IDEA.
YAMAOKA-KUN, DID YOU REALLY LISTEN?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT BEING ABLE TO HAVE LUNCH AT 'SHIRAFAN' IS LIKE HITTING THE JACKPOT.
HAHAHA!
ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS
OH NO, YAMAOKA-SAN AGAIN!?
UGH, I'M SO BEAT.
WIPE OFF THAT UNINTERESTED LOOK FROM YOUR FACE!!

美味しんぼ 1

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS.
GEEZ, SHOULD AT LEAST STAY AWAKE!
OUR COMPANY IS QUITE TOLERANT, HUH?
TYPICAL YAMAOKA. HE'S ALWAYS ACTING LIKE AN ODDBALL.
I WONDER IF THAT LAZY GLUTTON CAN BE OF ANY USE IF WE JUST LEAVE THEM BE.
...IS THIS WHAT A NEWSPAPER COMPANY IS LIKE?
WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT! CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S SOMEONE SO LAZY WORKING IN THE SAME NEWSPAPER COMPANY.
....

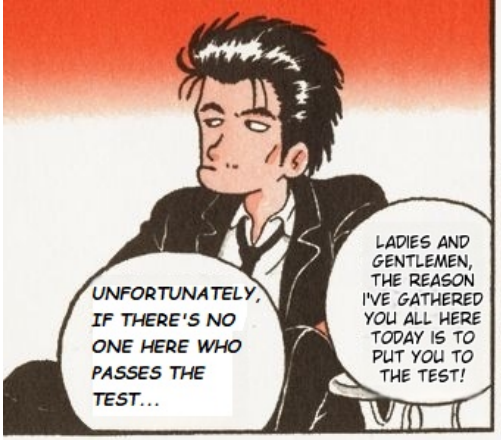
KURITA-SAN, LET'S GO TOGETHER.
SURE THING!
TALK ABOUT BEING STUBBORN, MY COWORKER IS THE EPITOME OF IT.
HAHAHA!
SO, I HAD TO SAY IT TOO, YOU KNOW...
HEY, WHAT'S FOR DINNER?


HIDEO TANIMURA, CHIEF OF THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT

I'M STARVING, MAN!
WHAT THE HECK ARE WE GONNA EAT?

HEY, YAMAOKA! YOU'RE LATE!!!

HEY, HEY, YOU!
UGH, SERIOUSLY, ENOUGH ALREADY!
HEY THERE, EXCUSE ME,
WELL, YOU SEE, I WAS TOTALLY IN THE ZONE AND...
IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S FINALLY HERE, HUH?
WHAT A HEARTLESS PERSON!
YO, LISTEN UP! THE BIG BOSS, MR. OHARA DAIZO, JUST DROPPED A BOMB OF A SPECIAL ORDER!
MR. OHARA? THE BOSS OF TOZAI NEWS?!!
AS YOU KNOW, THIS YEAR MARKS A MOMENTOUS OCCASION FOR OUR COMPANY - THE GRAND CELEBRATION OF OUR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY! WOOHOO!
REGARDING THIS INNOVATIVE PROJECT TO COMMEMORATE, OUR ESTEEMED CULTURAL DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN APPROACHED!
UGH

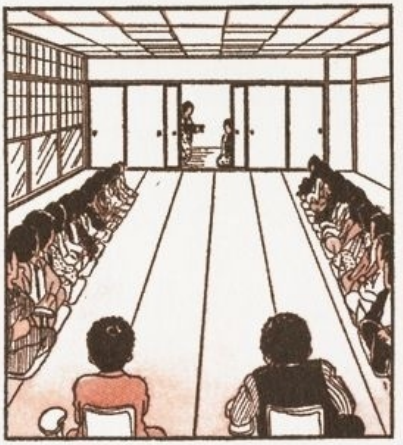

UNFORTUNATELY, IF THERE'S NO ONE HERE WHO PASSES THE TEST...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE REASON I'VE GATHERED YOU ALL HERE TODAY IS TO PUT YOU TO THE TEST!

ANYONE INVOLVED IN THIS COMMEMORATIVE PROJECT MUST POSSESS A SHARP AND DISCERNING PALATE!

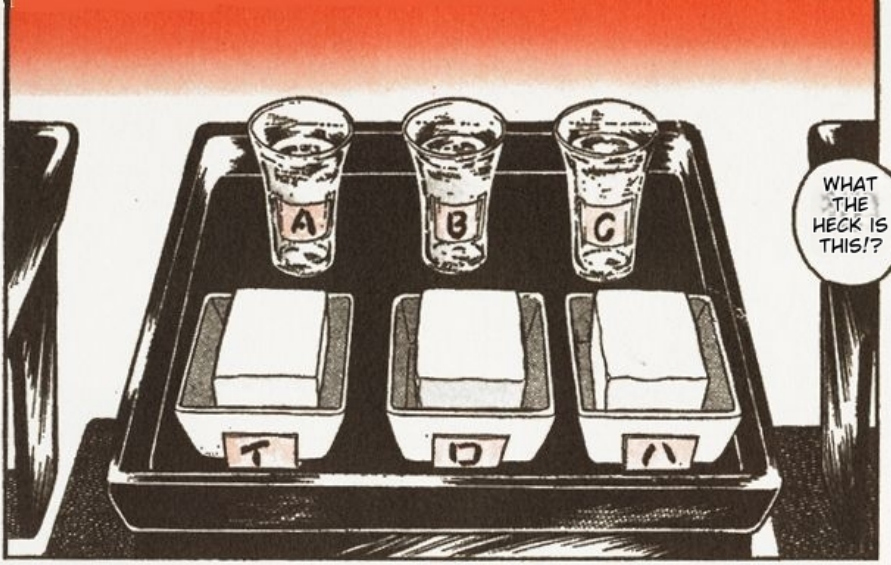
I'LL REVEAL WHAT I'M AIMING FOR LATER ON.

W-WHAT? THIS IS A DIRECT PROJECT FROM THE TOP BRASS?

WE'LL HAVE TO CANCEL THIS PROJECT, WHICH IS A SHAME, BUT THAT'S HOW IT GOES.



WELL THEN, LET'S GET STARTED!


A
B
C
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS!?

W-WHAT IS THIS, A TEST...!?
WELL, WELL, WELL, AREN'T YOU SURPRISED?

TOFU AND WATER, BAM!

THE WELL WATER FROM THIS VERY ESTABLISHMENT,
THE THREE CUPS CONTAIN... TAP WATER,
AND BEHOLD, THREE TYPES OF SPRING WATER DRAWN FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE TANZAWA MOUNTAINS!

FIRST, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE WATER.

OH, OISHINBO ①!

……
TSK!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
I'M EATING AS IF I'M TAKING AN EXAM.
WELL, LET'S SETTLE IT WITH A GAME OF ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS THEN,
THIS IS SO INCOMPREHENSIBLE, YOU KNOW.
...BUT COMPARED TO A'S WATER
DON'T YOU THINK C TASTES SOMEWHAT SALTY?
OH REALLY?
THAT NEW FEMALE EMPLOYEE IS REALLY GIVING IT HER ALL...
ALRIGHT, GIVE ME THE ANSWERS STARTING FROM THE ONES WHO FINISHED FIRST!

OOH, DELICIOUS GOURMET MANGA!

REALLY!?
WHO IS IT!?
!!
SOMEONE GOT THEM ALL RIGHT!
.....
KURITA-KUN, YOU ROCK!!
NOT JUST KURITA! YAMAOKA TOO!!!

YAMAOKA?!

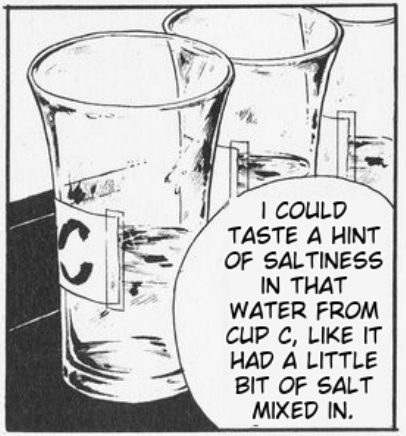
IT SEEMS LIKE B'S WATER SMELLS LIKE CHLORINE, SO I FIGURED IT MUST BE TAP WATER.
PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW YOU DETERMINED THE REMAINING TWO.
Y-YES.

WHAT KIND OF TASTE BUDS DO YOU HAVE?!
KURITA-SAN, YOU'RE AMAZING!

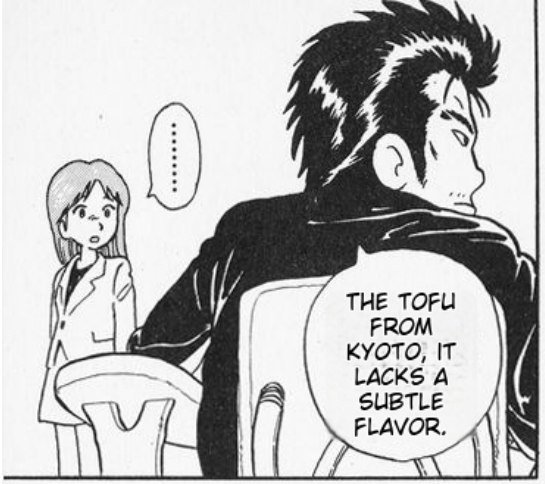
IS THAT THE CORRECT ANSWER?
...I'M SURPRISED...

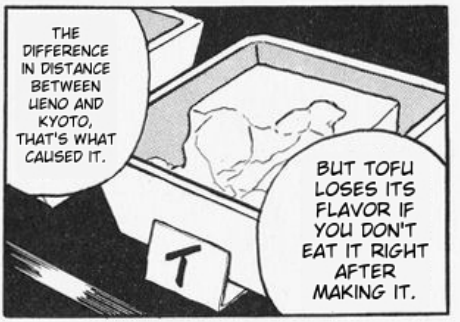
SO I THOUGHT THAT THE WATER IN C MUST BE THE WELL WATER OF THIS RESTAURANT.

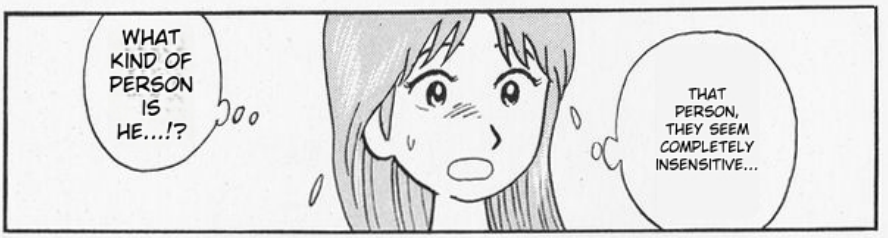
THIS AREA USED TO BE THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, AND IT'S STILL CLOSE TO THE OCEAN...


I COULD TASTE A HINT OF SALTINESS IN THAT WATER FROM CUP C, LIKE IT HAD A LITTLE BIT OF SALT MIXED IN.

THAT'S RIGHT.
I GOTTA SAY, IT DOES HAVE A BIT OF A SALTY TASTE, HUH.
GO FOR IT----!
AS FOR YAMAOKA, HE ALSO MENTIONS THE TASTE OF CALCIUM IN MINERAL WATER.
KURITA SEEMS TO HAVE VAGUELY SENSED THE DIFFERENCE IN FLAVOR, BUT...
FOR THE TOFU, WELL...
YAMAOKA, CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE REASON TO EVERYONE?
SUPERMARKET TOFU IS OUT OF THE QUESTION,
THE TASTE IS SIMPLY INDESCRIBABLE.
THE OTHER TWO ARE MADE WITH DOMESTIC SOYBEANS AND GOOD WATER,
IT'S EXACTLY AS WRITTEN THERE.
... "YOU CAN'T LET WINE AND TOFU GO ON A JOURNEY TOGETHER,
YAMAOKA!!


……
THE TOFU FROM KYOTO, IT LACKS A SUBTLE FLAVOR.


THE DIFFERENCE IN DISTANCE BETWEEN UENO AND KYOTO, THAT'S WHAT CAUSED IT.
BUT TOFU LOSES ITS FLAVOR IF YOU DON'T EAT IT RIGHT AFTER MAKING IT.


WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE...!?
THAT PERSON, THEY SEEM COMPLETELY INSENSITIVE...

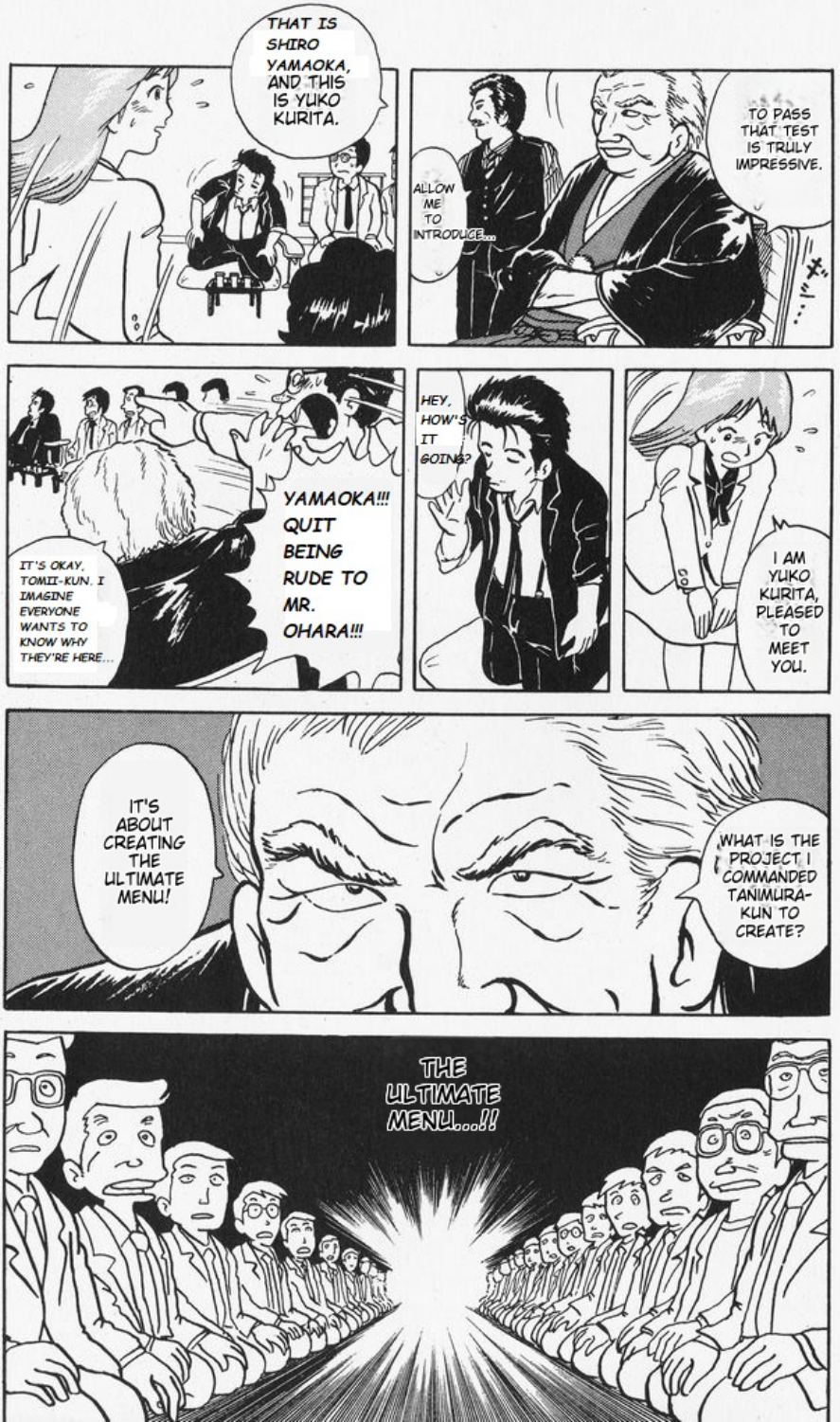
やはり…?
IT TRULY IS SOMETHING REMARKABLE.
AND THE ANSWER IS... SPOT ON!

THAT YAMAOKA, I TELL YOU!
WELL, WELL, WELL... I'M SURPRISED!

YAMAOKA AND A ROOKIE GIRL... ISN'T THAT JUST RECKLESS?

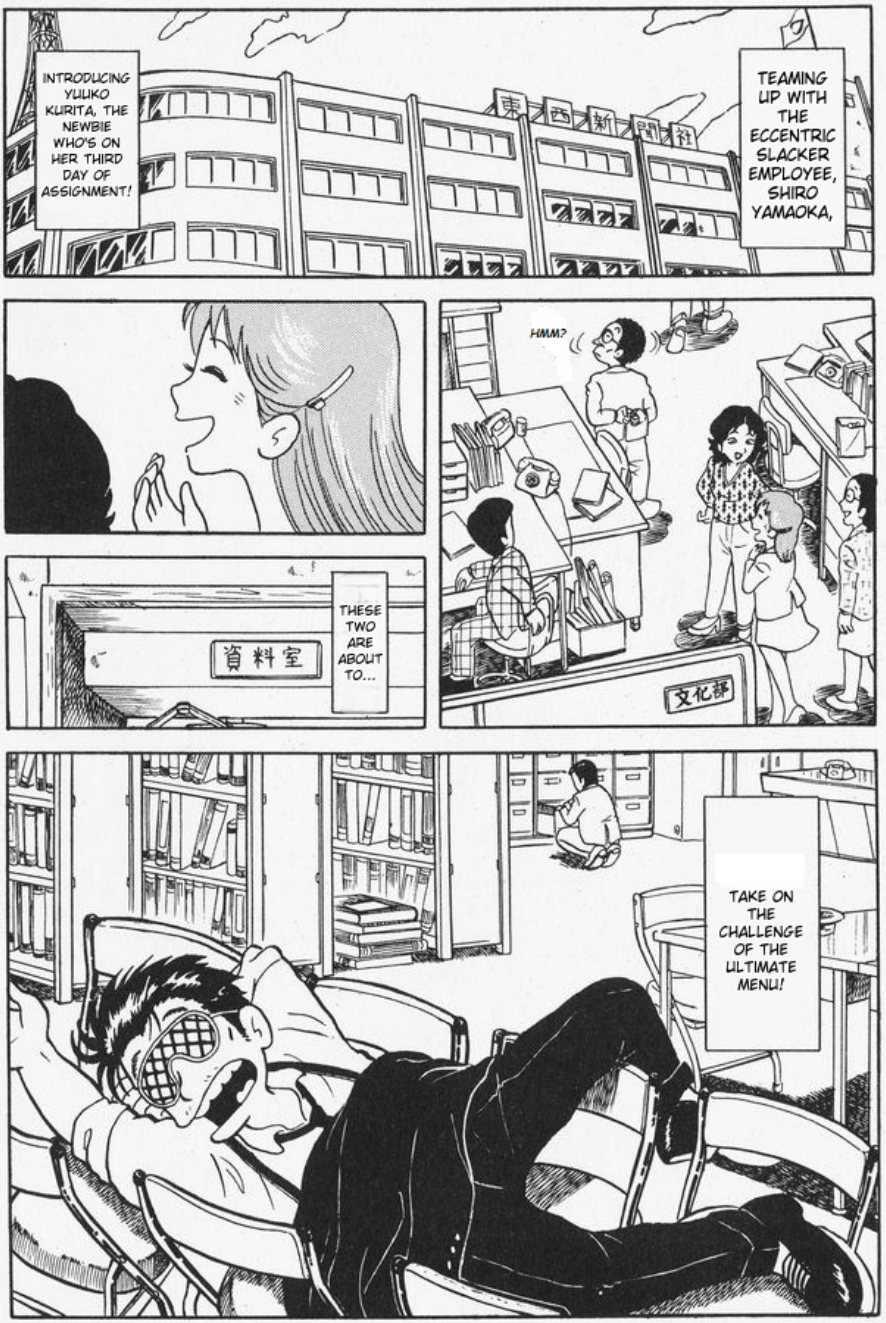
THIS PROJECT WILL BE ENTRUSTED TO YAMAOKA-KUN AND KURITA-KUN!!
HOORAY, HOORAY!
YAN YA NYAN YA.
JULY, LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN!!

OH HO, IT SEEMS TWO PEOPLE HAVE PASSED THAT EXAM...
ALRIGHT THEN, LET'S DO IT!
WHAT'S THE FUN IN NOT TAKING RISKS? YOU'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY...
OHARA DAIZO, THE HEAD HONCHO OF THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER.
WHAT BRINGS YOU ALL THE WAY HERE...!?
WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE ILLUSTRIOUS MR. OHARA.
T-TO HAVE YOU GRACE US WITH YOUR PRESENCE...
THAT PERSON...
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE!!

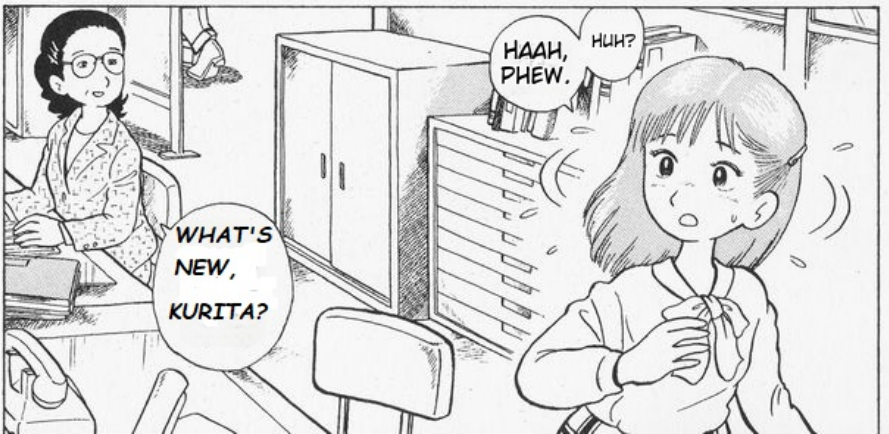

THAT IS SHIRO YAMAOKA, AND THIS IS YUKO KURITA.
TO PASS THAT TEST IS TRULY IMPRESSIVE.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE...
YAMAOKA!!! QUIT BEING RUDE TO MR. OHARA!!!
IT'S OKAY, TOMII-KUN. I IMAGINE EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW WHY THEY'RE HERE...
HEY, HOW'S IT GOING?
I AM YUKO KURITA, PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
WHAT IS THE PROJECT I COMMANDED TANIMURA-KUN TO CREATE?
IT'S ABOUT CREATING THE ULTIMATE MENU!
THE ULTIMATE MENU...!!

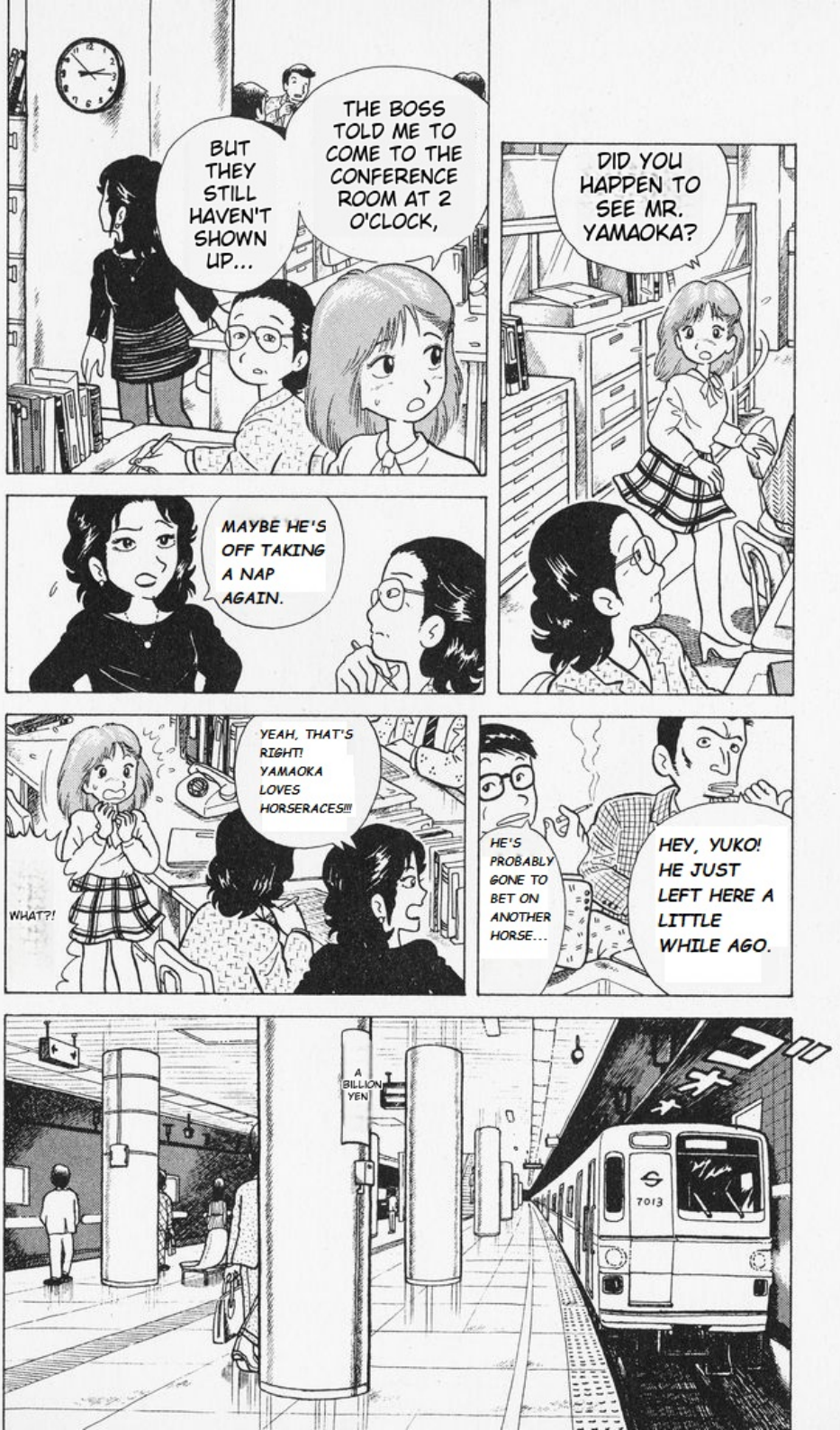
FOR EXAMPLE, A MENU FROM A BANQUET LEFT BY THE LOUIS DYNASTY...
AFTER ALL, CULTURE IS NOT ONLY FOUND IN ART, BUT ALSO IN THE CULTURE OF FOOD.
JAPAN IS THE FIRST AND ONLY COUNTRY TO HAVE SUCH A DIVERSE FOOD CULTURE.
VINTAGE
JAPAN IS CURRENTLY IMPORTING CUISINE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD...
I THOUGHT ABOUT CREATING A MENU THAT WOULD BE A CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS...
SO, I CAREFULLY SELECTED THE MOST EXQUISITE AND UNIQUE DISHES FROM ALL THE DELICACIES THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER.

THE MENU OF THE GRAND BANQUET HELD BY HIDEYOSHI AT JURAKU PALACE...
THEY EMBODY THE ESSENCE OF EACH CULTURE, TELLING TALES OF THEIR MAGNIFICENCE.
AS THE ULTIMATE CULMINATION OF HUMAN CULTURE, WE SHALL CREATE THE GREATEST MENU EVER!!
THE "ULTIMATE MENU"!
I SHALL BE THE ONE TO CREATE IT!!

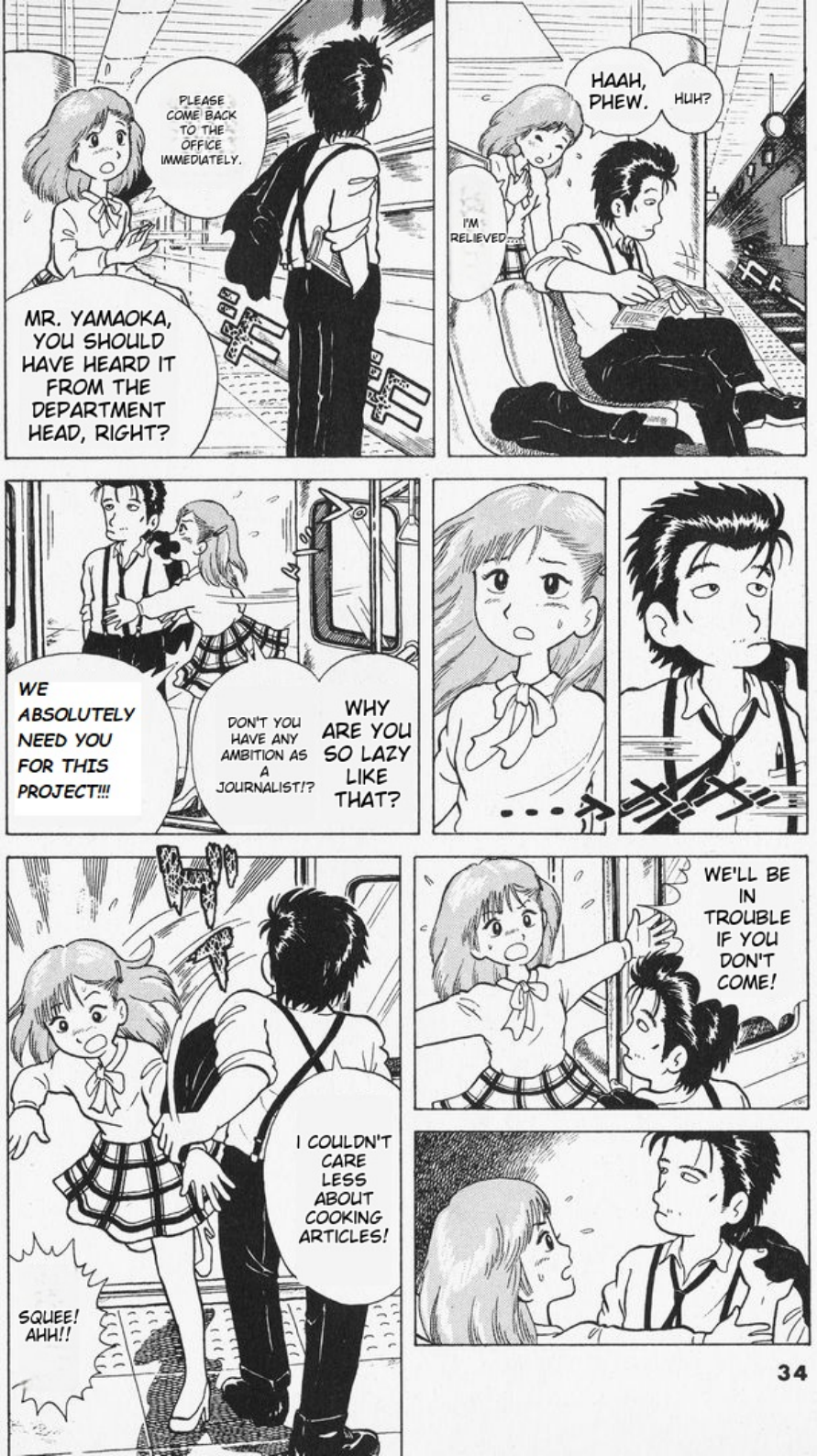

INTRODUCING YUUKO KURITA, THE NEWBIE WHO'S ON HER THIRD DAY OF ASSIGNMENT!
TEAMING UP WITH THE ECCENTRIC SLACKER EMPLOYEE, SHIRO YAMAOKA,
東西新聞社
HMM?
資料室
THESE TWO ARE ABOUT TO...
文化部
TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE OF THE ULTIMATE MENU!

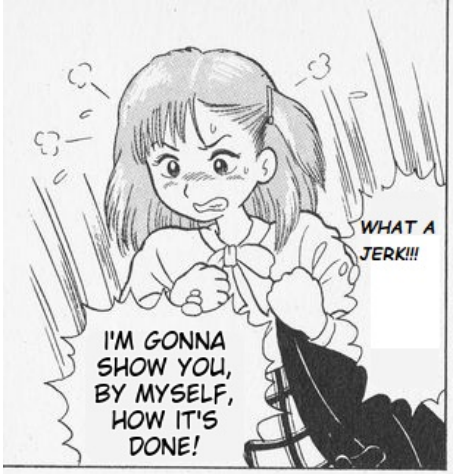
第2話
味で勝負!!
YES, I'M FROM THE CULTURE DEPARTMENT OF THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER.

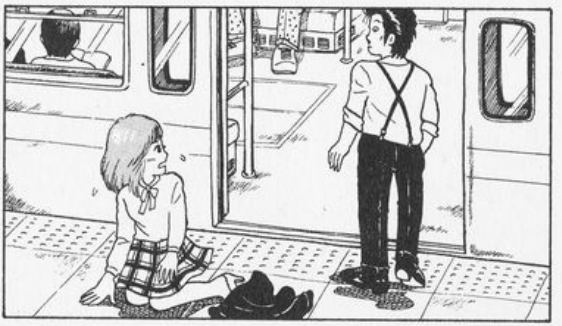

HAAH, PHEW.
HUH?
WHAT'S NEW, KURITA?

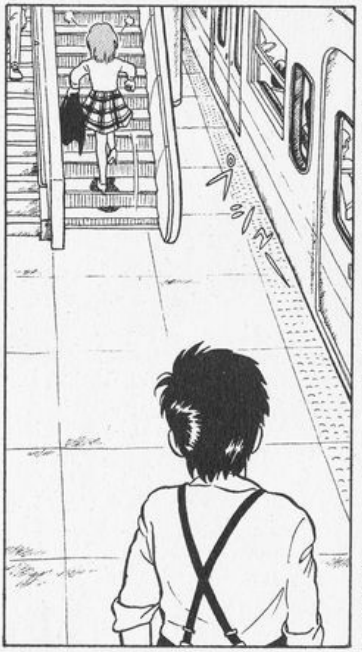

THE BOSS TOLD ME TO COME TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 2 O'CLOCK,
BUT THEY STILL HAVEN'T SHOWN UP...
DID YOU HAPPEN TO SEE MR. YAMAOKA?
MAYBE HE'S OFF TAKING A NAP AGAIN.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! YAMAOKA LOVES HORSERACES!!!
WHAT?!
HE'S PROBABLY GONE TO BET ON ANOTHER HORSE...
HEY, YUKO! HE JUST LEFT HERE A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
A BILLION YEN
7013

ガァーン
ハァ
ハァ
……
ガッ
ガッ
タン
タンタン
ハァ
フウ
馬
YO... YAMAOKA-SAN!!
馬


PLEASE COME BACK TO THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.
MR. YAMAOKA, YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD IT FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD, RIGHT?
HAAH, PHEW.
HUH?
I'M RELIEVED...
WE ABSOLUTELY NEED YOU FOR THIS PROJECT!!!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY AMBITION AS A JOURNALIST!?
WHY ARE YOU SO LAZY LIKE THAT?
WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF YOU DON'T COME!
I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT COOKING ARTICLES!
SQUEE! AHH!!


I'M GONNA SHOW YOU, BY MYSELF, HOW IT'S DONE!
WHAT A JERK!!!





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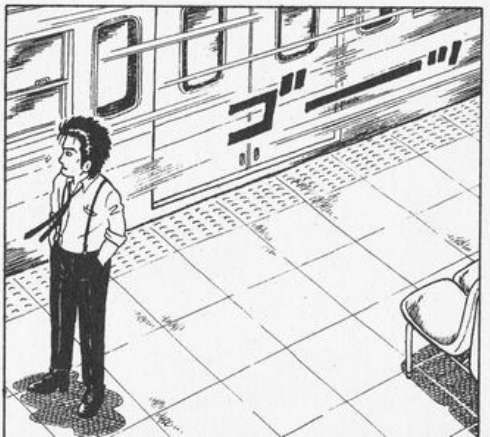
MY WALLET IS IN THERE!!!
HEY, MY JACKET!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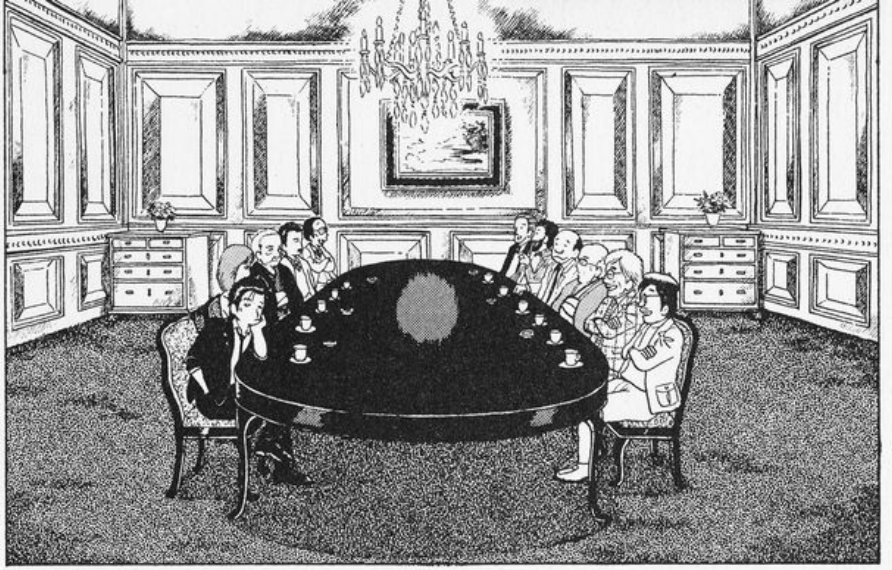
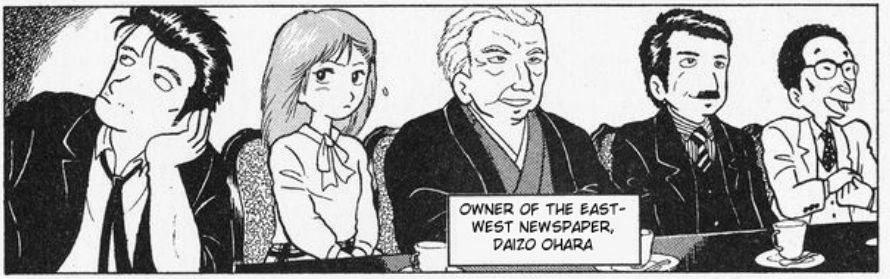
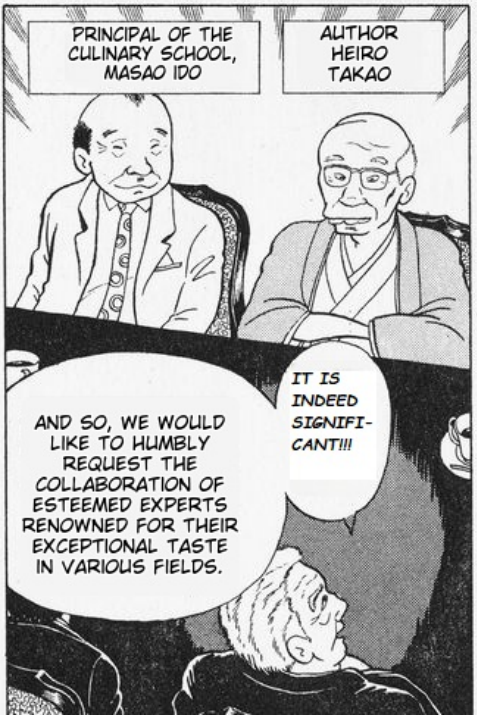



OWNER OF THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER, DAIZO OHARA

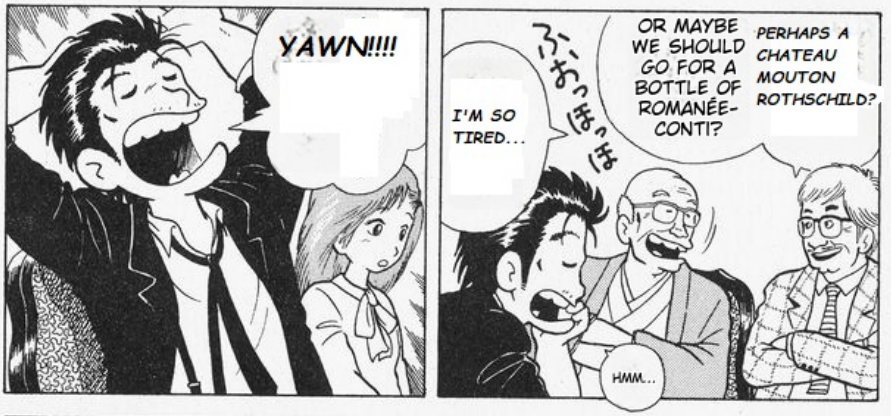

PRINCIPAL OF THE CULINARY SCHOOL, MASAO IDO
AUTHOR HEIRO TAKAO
AND SO, WE WOULD LIKE TO HUMBLY REQUEST THE COLLABORATION OF ESTEEMED EXPERTS RENOWNED FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL TASTE IN VARIOUS FIELDS.
IT IS INDEED SIGNIFI-CANT!!!

CREATING THE ULTIMATE MENU, NOW THAT'S A BRILLIANT IDEA, I MUST SAY!
AS THE PINNACLE ACHIEVEMENT OF HUMAN CULTURE, NO DOUBT IT'S QUITE A GRAND UNDERTAKING,
ENTERTAINMENT CRITIC, HIROMASU KAWAMOTO

AS THE PROJECT TO COMMEMORATE OUR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY, IT HOLDS IMMENSE SIGNIFICANCE, YOU KNOW!
GOURMET ESSAYIST, TOMIO HANAMURA

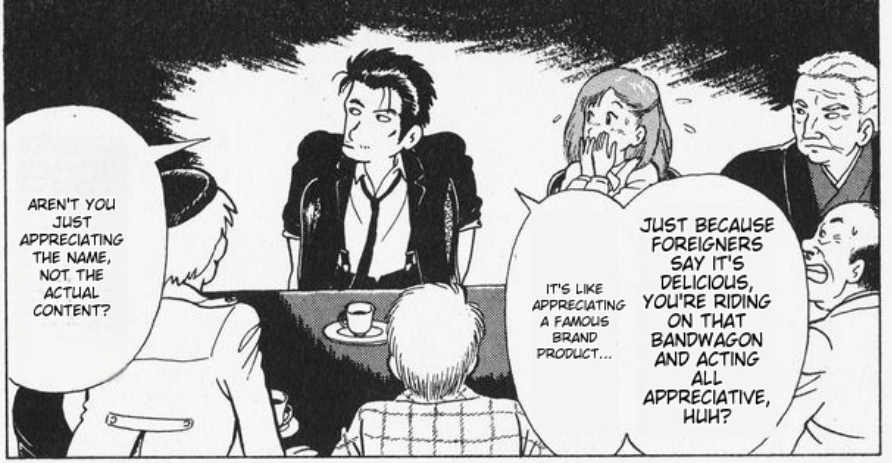
I CAN'T FORGET THAT MOUTHWATERING VEAL EN CROÛTE I HAD IN PARIS, BABY!
FOR TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CUISINE, LOOK NO FURTHER THAN PROFESSOR IDO!
WELL THEN, I BETTER BRING BACK SOME BIRD'S NEST ALL THE WAY FROM THAILAND...
RESTAURANT GURU, SHUICHI SADA!
ALRIGHTY, LET'S GET OURSELVES SOME OF THAT FANCY BLACK SEA CAVIAR SHIPPED IN!
DAN KAZUMA, THE ROCKSTAR COMPOSER!

WELL THEN, WE BETTER MAKE SURE WE HAVE SOME GOOD WINE TOO!
MY DEAR, I SIMPLY CANNOT RESIST THE DELICATE SIZZLE OF A LAMB'S BRAIN SAUTÉ. IT'S A TASTE THAT DEFIES EXPLANATION, YOU KNOW.


YAWN!!!!
I'M SO TIRED...
ふぉっほっほ
OR MAYBE WE SHOULD GO FOR A BOTTLE OF ROMANÉE-CONTI?
PERHAPS A CHATEAU MOUTON ROTHSCHILD?
HMM...

OH... YOU INSOLENT FOOL! HOW DARE YOU BE SO DISRESPECTFUL IN FRONT OF SUCH ESTEEMED TEACHERS!

.....
WHOA, LISTEN UP! WE'RE TALKING ABOUT FOIE GRAS HERE! WE'RE TALKING ABOUT FORCE-FEEDING GEESE WITH A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF BOILED CORN AND FATTENING THEM UP WITHOUT EXERCISE!
AND GUESS WHAT? WE MAKE IT USING THOSE ABNORMALLY ENLARGED LIVERS!
IT'S LIKE THE EPITOME OF DELICIOUSNESS, I TELL YA!
HEY, KURITA, HAVE YOU EVER HAD THE PLEASURE OF TASTING IT?
WELL, WELL, WELL! I'LL JUST HAVE TO ORDER SOME FOIE GRAS, THE KING OF GOURMET DELICACIES, ALL THE WAY FROM FRANCE.
OH...!
HMPH...
WHAT DO YOU SAY, MR. YAMAOKA? YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY EXCLUDE IT FROM THE 'ULTIMATE MENU,' RIGHT?
HUH?
WHAT?!?
THESE SO-CALLED JAPANESE FOOD CONNOISSEURS ARE SO RIDICULOUS, DON'T YOU THINK?


AREN'T YOU JUST APPRECIATING THE NAME, NOT THE ACTUAL CONTENT?
IT'S LIKE APPRECIATING A FAMOUS BRAND PRODUCT...
JUST BECAUSE FOREIGNERS SAY IT'S DELICIOUS, YOU'RE RIDING ON THAT BANDWAGON AND ACTING ALL APPRECIATIVE, HUH?

Y-YAMAOKA-KUN!!

W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
I'VE SPENT 30 YEARS STUDYING FRENCH CUISINE, YOU KNOW!
DO YOU THINK WE'RE JUST A BUNCH OF TRENDY FOLLOWERS?!

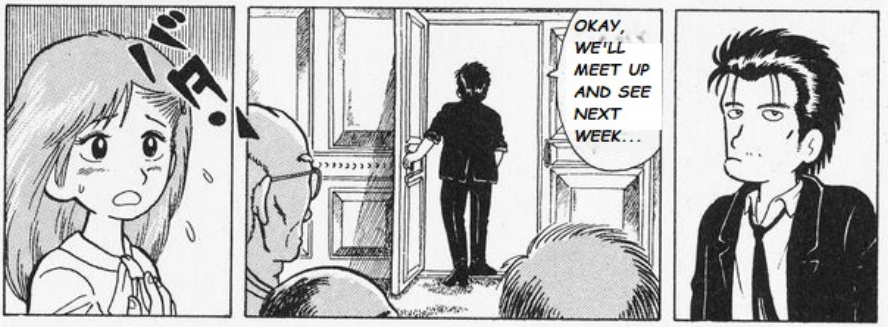
SO YOU'RE TRYING TO RUIN THIS WHOLE PROJECT, HUH?

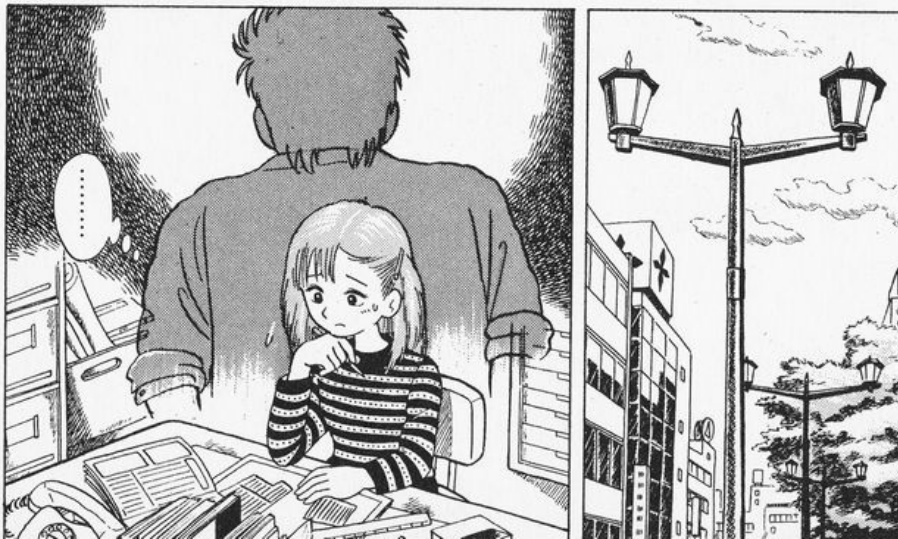
I'M NOT JUST GOING TO SERVE YOU THE BEST FOIE GRAS, I'LL LET YOU TASTE SOMETHING FAR MORE EXQUISITE!

YOU ASKED IF WE COULD TASTE THE FLAVOR OF FOIE GRAS, DIDN'T YOU?
SO, DO YOU UNDERSTAND, THEN?

JUST SHUT UP ALREADY...
CAN'T YOU STOP BEING SO FOOLISH?!

LET'S ORDER THE FINEST FOIE GRAS FROM FRANCE!
ALL RIGHT, I WON'T BACK DOWN AFTER BEING RIDICULED LIKE THIS!
SOMETHING TASTIER THAN FOIE GRAS, YOU SAY?


EH?!
OKAY, WE'LL MEET UP AND SEE NEXT WEEK...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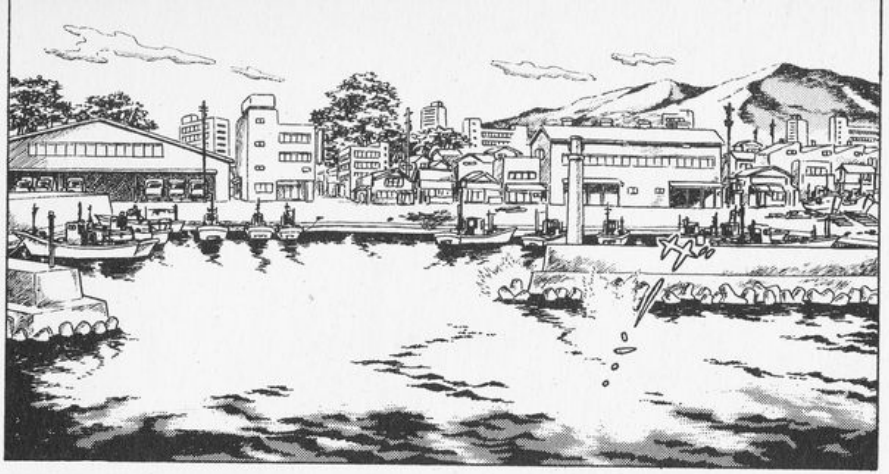
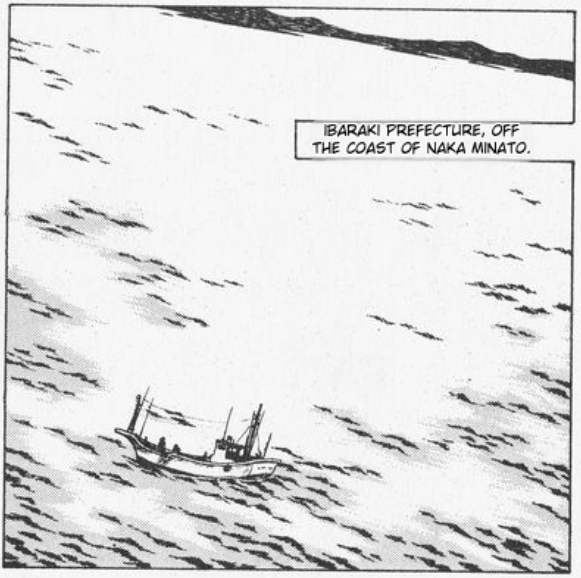
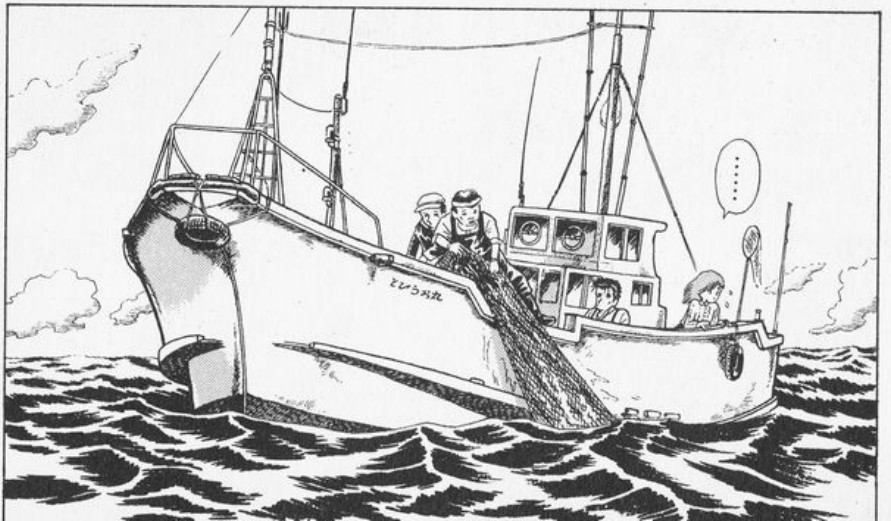
I KNEW IT WAS RECKLESS TO ASSIGN THAT YAMAOKA KID... SERIOUSLY, HE HASN'T SENT A SINGLE MESSAGE ALL WEEK!
WHERE ON EARTH...
SERIOUSLY, DESPITE BEING SO NOTICEABLE, HE HASN'T BOTHERED TO CONTACT US ONCE!
HEY, KURITA-KUN, IT'S A CALL FROM YAMAOKA.
IT'S THE OCEAN!
W-WHERE ARE YOU!?
HE WANTS ME TO LET HIM KNOW THE LOCATION WHERE WE'LL MEET THE TEACHERS TONIGHT...
I'M HEADING THERE RIGHT NOW!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE SEA...




IBARAKI PREFECTURE, OFF THE COAST OF NAKA MINATO.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OH, OISHINBO
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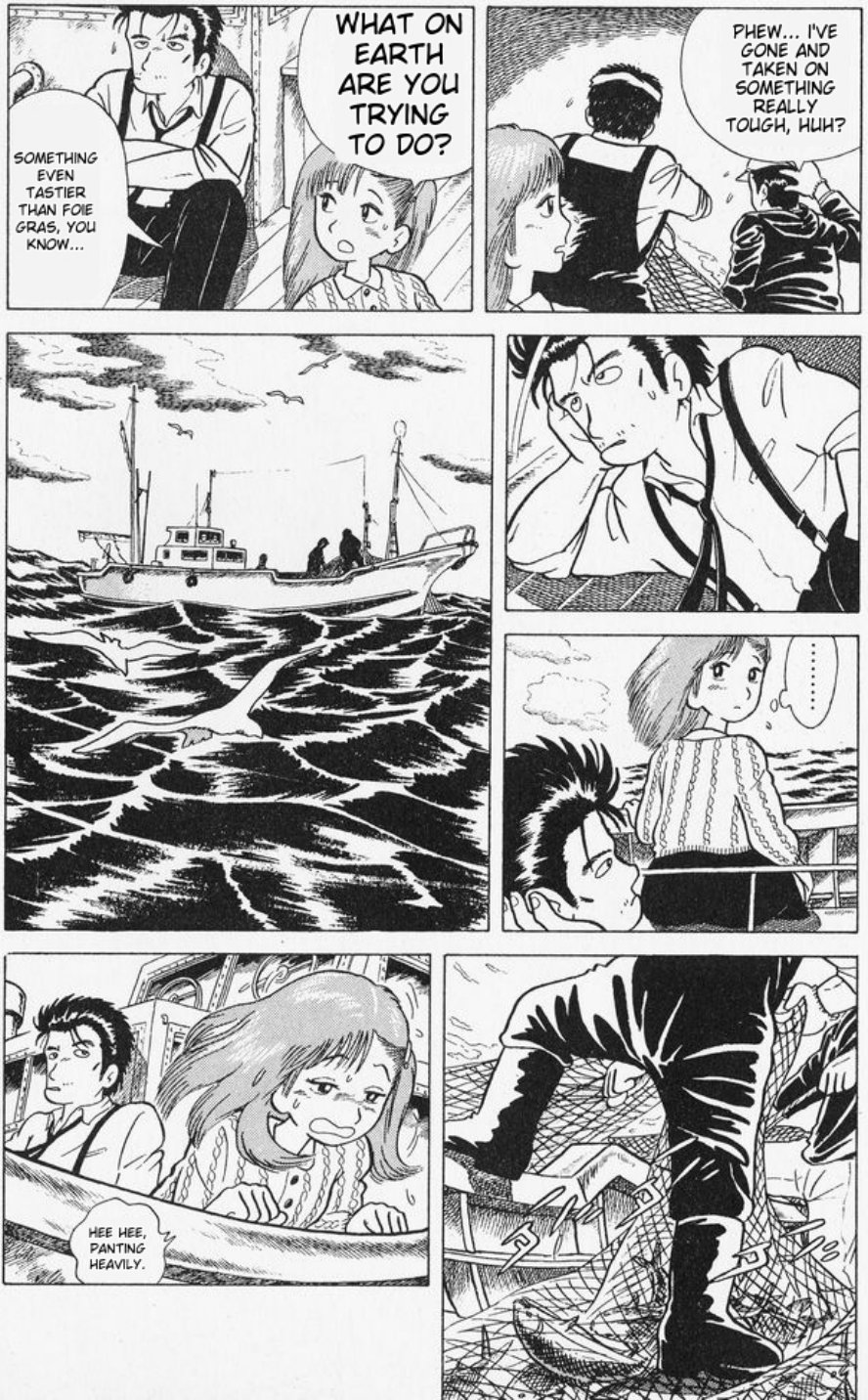
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
SOMETHING EVEN TASTIER THAN FOIE GRAS, YOU KNOW...
PHEW... I'VE GONE AND TAKEN ON SOMETHING REALLY TOUGH, HUH?
.....
HEE HEE, PANTING HEAVILY.

DELICIOUS BITE
①1

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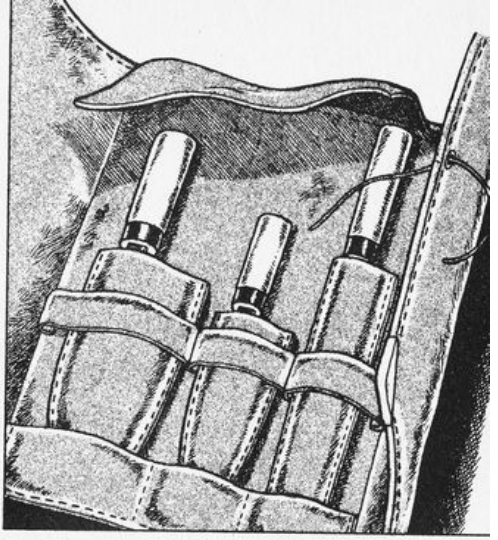
ANKOU, BABY! I'VE BEEN BUSTING MY CHOPS FOR A WHOLE WEEK TO SCORE THIS BEAUTY, THE ANGLERFISH!
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT I'D REEL IN SUCH A STUNNING CATCH OUT OF SEASON? YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT, MY FRIEND!

THIS IS THE
ゴロゴロ……

GET READY TO MAKE PREPARATIONS!
ALRIGHT, HERE IT COMES!

WHY DO WE POUR WATER INTO ITS MOUTH, YOU ASK? WELL, HERE'S THE SCOOP!
OH, REALLY...!
SO, THAT'S WHY WE HANG IT UP LIKE THIS, FILL ITS BELLY WITH WATER, AND THEN CUT IT OPEN WITH A SWOOSH!
YOU SEE, THE MONKFISH DOESN'T HAVE ANY SOLID BONES, IT'S ALL SQUISHY AND WIGGLY. IF YOU TRY TO CUT IT ON THE CUTTING BOARD, IT WON'T WORK.
.....

ARE YOU READY, HUH!?
OH YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, BRO!
WOW, THIS KNIFE SET IS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!!



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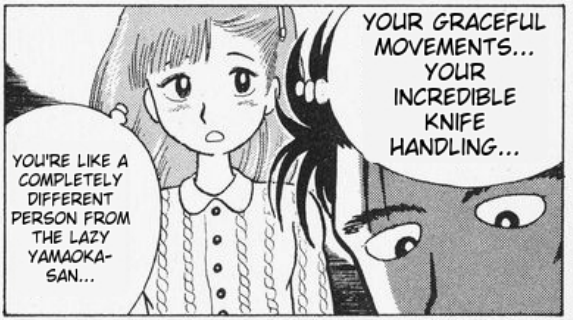
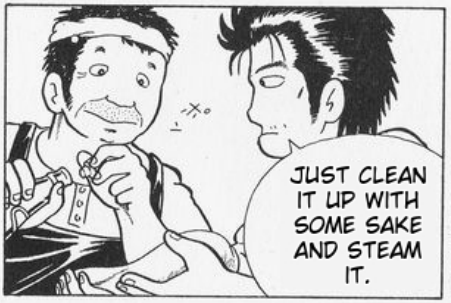
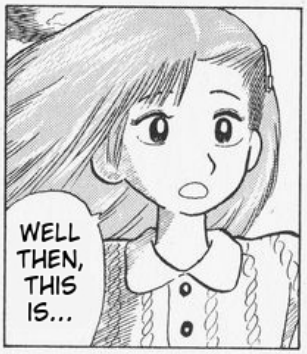
HMM! THAT KNIFE IS TOP-NOTCH, AND YOUR SKILLS ARE SIMPLY MAGNIFICENT!
NO WAY! WHEN AND WHERE DID YOU LEARN THIS!?


YOUR GRACEFUL MOVEMENTS... YOUR INCREDIBLE KNIFE HANDLING...
YOU'RE LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON FROM THE LAZY YAMAOKA-SAN...

WHAT THE HECK!?
WELL, YOU'RE QUITE THE CATCH.
ALL RIGHT! IT MAY BE SMALL FOR ITS BODY BEING OUT OF SEASON, BUT...


JUST CLEAN IT UP WITH SOME SAKE AND STEAM IT.

HEY, SAKE!
LIVER, HUH.
GOT IT!
THE LIVER...


WELL THEN, THIS IS...

THIS MONKFISH LIVER IS A DELICACY EVEN BETTER THAN FOIE GRAS!
TANIZAWA

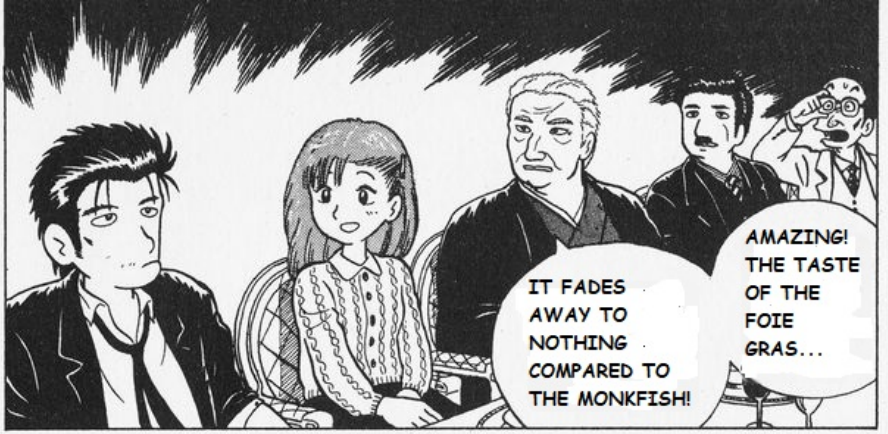
*TRUFFLE: A TYPE OF MUSHROOM HIGHLY PRIZED IN FRENCH CUISINE. FOIE GRAS WITH TRUFFLE IS CONSIDERED A DELICACY.

われる。

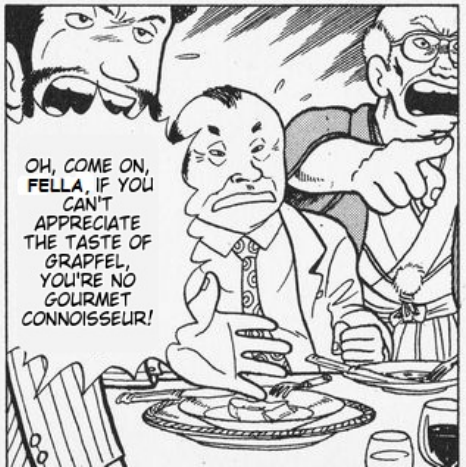
OH, GOURMET GLUTTON ①1

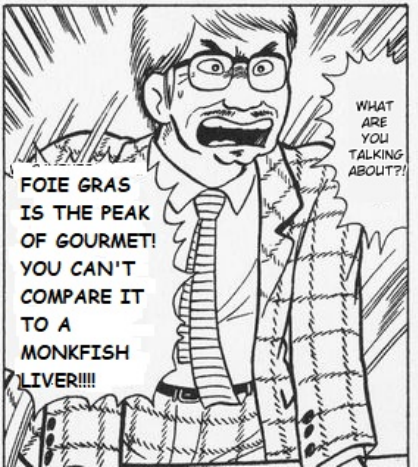
IT'S THE LIVER OF A MONKFISH.
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT?
NOW, LET'S MOVE ON TO WHAT YOU BROUGHT, SHALL WE EAT IT?
THAT'S ANKIMO, MY FRIEND.
アンキモ……!?
……
YOU MEAN THE GUTS OF A MONKFISH, RIGHT?
THAT THING THAT COMES AS A SNACK IN A BAR...
WHAT?!?
HAHAHA, WELL, CAN'T BLAME A POOR PERSON, HUH?
THIS IS A BIG LAUGH, A RIDICULOUS JOKE!!
BOO!!
ALRIGHT, LET'S GIVE IT A TASTE.
SAVE YOUR COMPLAINTS FOR LATER, OKAY?
GIVE IT A TRY, WILL YA?

TH-THIS IS SO... SO RIDICULOUS!
SERIOUSLY! I THINK THE RICH FLAVOR OF THIS DISH IS ON PAR WITH FOIE GRAS, BUT...
DELICIOUS!!
AND ON TOP OF THAT, IT HAS A VIVIDNESS THAT FOIE GRAS LACKS, WITH A RICH AROMA THAT ISN'T THE LEAST BIT FISHY...
YES...
W-WHY WOULD YOU EVEN COMPARE IT TO SOMETHING SO INFERIOR...
HEHE, WELL, WELL, I WOULDN'T GO AS FAR AS TO SAY IT'S BAD...
WHEN YOU COMPARE THEM, FOIE GRAS IS OILY AND ITS TASTE IS HEAVY AND MURKY...
DESPITE BEING RICH AND HEARTY, ANKIMO'S FLAVOR IS PURE AND CLEAR!
OH... OOHARA-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU EVEN...!!


AMAZING! THE TASTE OF THE FOIE GRAS...
IT FADES AWAY TO NOTHING COMPARED TO THE MONKFISH!

A LIVER FORGED IN THE DEPTHS OF THE UNTAMED OCEAN'S EMBRACE, A PARAGON OF PRISTINE HEALTH,
WHICH IS TASTIER, THE PATHOLOGICAL LIVER CONCOCTED BY HUMAN INGENUITY OR THE CUNNINGLY WICKED LIVER OF THE DEVIL HIMSELF? LET'S SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!
AND TO TOP IT OFF, THIS ANKIMO WAS PREPARED RIGHT ON THE SPOT, JUST AFTER IT WAS CAUGHT. THE FRESHNESS OF THIS DELICACY IS LIKE NIGHT AND DAY COMPARED TO THE FROZEN FOIE GRAS FLOWN IN FROM FRANCE.


OH, COME ON, FELLA, IF YOU CAN'T APPRECIATE THE TASTE OF GRAPFEL, YOU'RE NO GOURMET CONNOISSEUR!


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
FOIE GRAS IS THE PEAK OF GOURMET! YOU CAN'T COMPARE IT TO A MONKFISH LIVER!!!!

IT SEEMS WE DON'T NEED THE HELP OF THESE CONNOISSEURS TO CREATE THE ULTIMATE MENU.
I SEE... WELL, WELL, WELL...
WAIT, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...?
YEAH.
I DON'T SEE THE DETERMINATION IN YOU ALL TO DISCOVER NEW FLAVORS AND TASTES, PUTTING YOUR OWN PALATES TO THE TEST.
WHILE THEY MAY BE ABLE TO WRITE RESTAURANT GUIDEBOOKS, THEY CAN'T BREAK NEW GROUND IN THE REALM OF CULINARY CULTURE, YOU KNOW?
?
UGH... AH...
YAMAOKA-KUN,
THE CREATION OF THE ULTIMATE MENU SHOULD BE DONE AS YOU AND KURITA-KUN SEE FIT!

I JUST COULDN'T HELP BUT BE STUBBORN IN FRONT OF THOSE SO-CALLED GOURMET TEACHERS...
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SUCH A PLAN.
YAMAOKA-SAN...!?
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE IT SERIOUSLY!?
WHY? ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU HAVE SO MUCH KNOWLEDGE ABOUT COOKING...
Y-YAMAOKA-KUN!!
WHAT IS THAT THING?

第3話
寿司の心
penguin

OH, KURITA-SAN, DID YOU BRING A BENTO TODAY?
ゴ！
東西新聞社
PLEASE, DIG IN... I BROUGHT PLENTY OF RICE BALLS, AFTER ALL.
WOW, THEY LOOK DELICIOUS!
NOW, WHICH ONE...
YAMAOKA-SAN, HOW ARE THE RICE BALLS?
YEAH! THE RICE BALLS ARE SEASONED JUST RIGHT, SO TASTY!
I GUESS BEING CHOSEN TO CREATE THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' REALLY PAID OFF, HUH?

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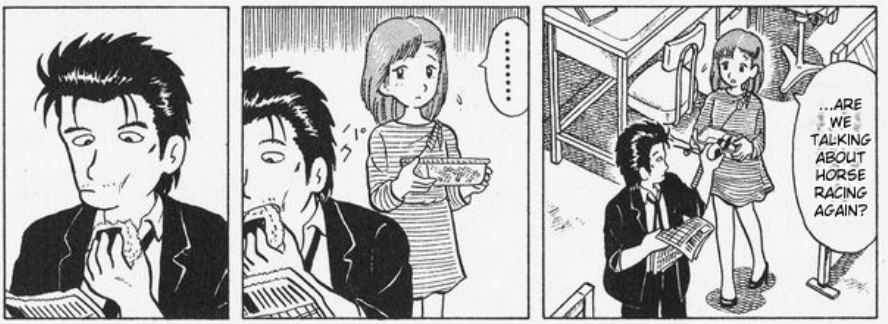
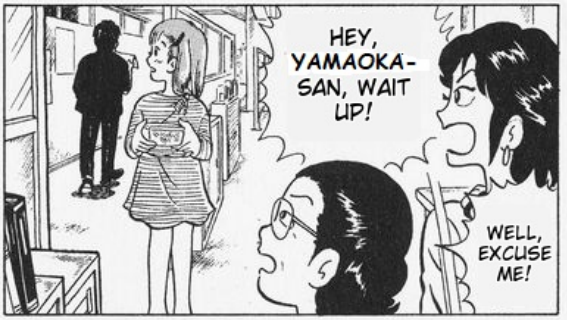
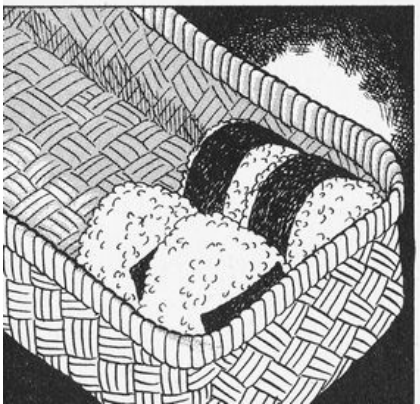

.....
...ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HORSE RACING AGAIN?

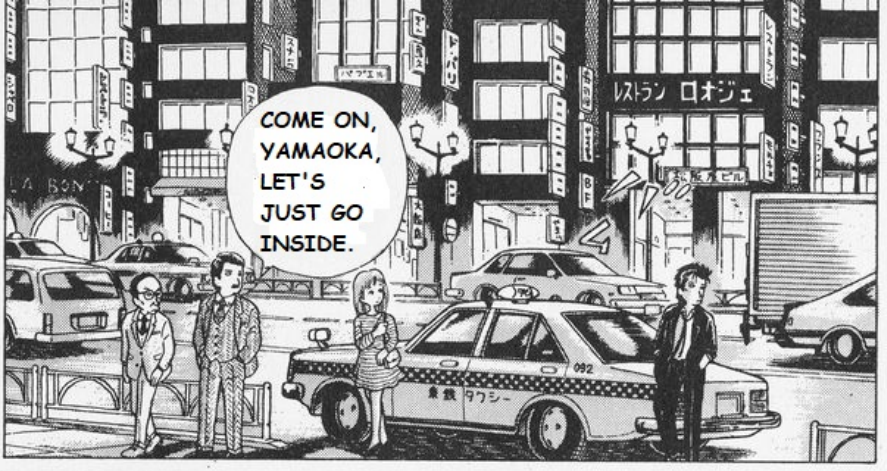
30 POINTS... UGH.

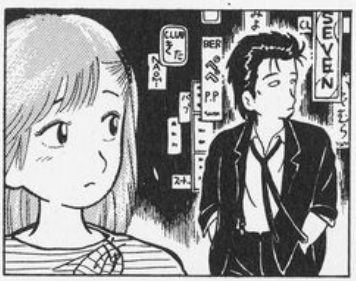

HEY, YAMAOKA-SAN, WAIT UP!
WELL, EXCUSE ME!

HUH... WAIT, WHAT?!

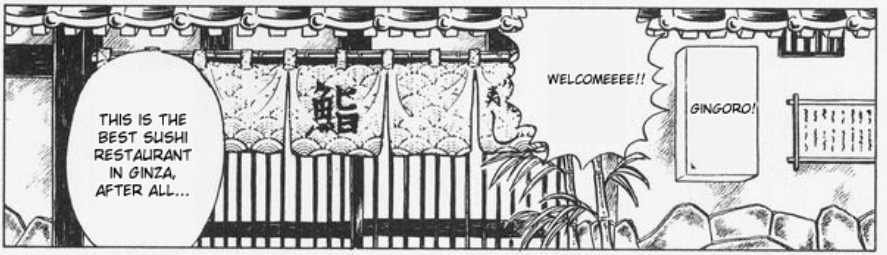


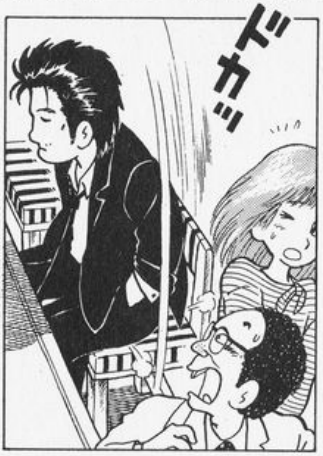
OH, MAN, WHY IS YAMAOKA SUCH A JERK?!!!
I WONDER IF MY RICE BALLS WERE REALLY THAT BAD...


COME ON, YAMAOKA, LET'S JUST GO INSIDE.
レストラン ロオジェ


SEVEN

I ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO HEAR YOUR TRUE INTENTIONS ABOUT NOT BEING INTERESTED IN CREATING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' TODAY.
WELL, LET'S HAVE SUSHI AND TAKE OUR TIME CHATTING.


THIS IS THE BEST SUSHI RESTAURANT IN GINZA, AFTER ALL...
WELCOMEEEE!!
GINGORO!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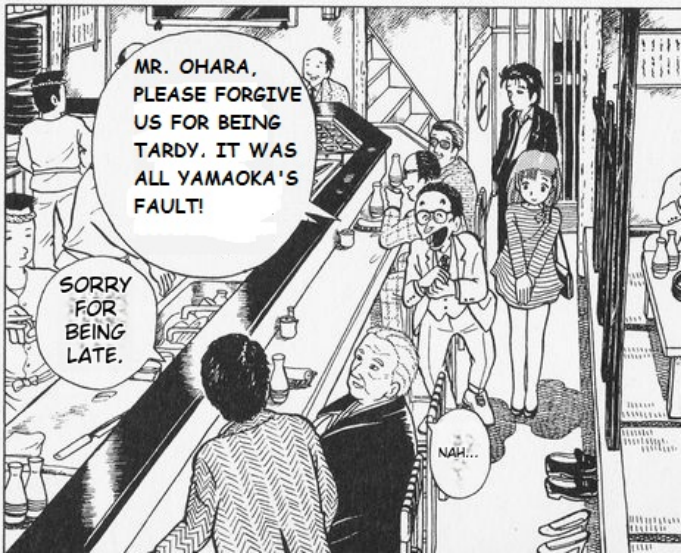
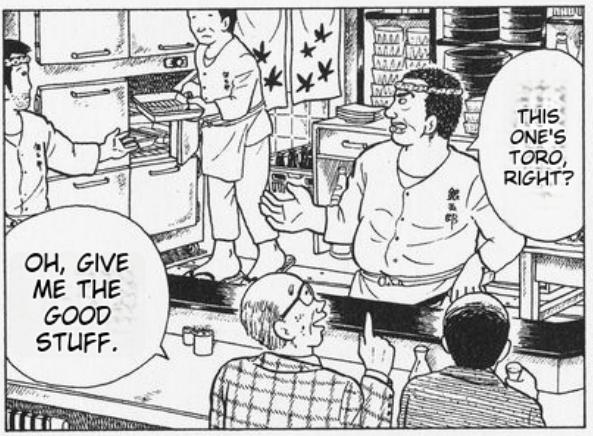

MR. OHARA, PLEASE FORGIVE US FOR BEING TARDY. IT WAS ALL YAMAOKA'S FAULT!
SORRY FOR BEING LATE.
NAH...

美味(おい)しんぼ 1

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME SAKE YAMAOKA?
.....
UGH! WHAT'S WITH THAT SUSHI GRIP, HUH? YOU'RE RUINING THE WHOLE SUSHI EXPERIENCE, MAN! IT'S LIKE ALL THAT EFFORT IN MAKING THE SUSHI HAS GONE DOWN THE DRAIN!
!
I'LL DO IT MY WAY. NO NEED TO WORRY!
OH, WELL, YOU SEE...
HMMPH! HOW RUDE! ARE YOU GOING TO BE LIKE HIM, TOO KURITA?!

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, GINGORO'S OLD MAN'S SUSHI IS A WORK OF ART!
YO, MY BAD, MY BAD. I'LL WATCH OUT, I SWEAR.
WHAT A FLIMSY ROLL OF LUCK! MY SUSHI IS A WORK OF ART, MAN! AND YOU JUST HAD TO GO AND RUIN IT!
NAH, SEEMS LIKE MY FINGERS SLIPPED, YA KNOW?
銀五郎

I HEARD THEY WERE ARROGANT AT THE TOP SUSHI RESTAURANT IN GINZA, BUT IT'S EVEN MORE THAN I IMAGINED.
THEY MAY BE IMPORTANT PEOPLE AT WORK, BUT THEY STILL SHOUT AT US WITHOUT ANY CONSIDERATION...


THIS ONE'S TORO, RIGHT?
OH, GIVE ME THE GOOD STUFF.

OUR TORO, THE BEST BLUEFIN TUNA IN JAPAN, IS PERFECT IN EVERY ASPECT, NOT A SINGLE FLAW ANYWHERE!!
YOU HAVE NO CLUE ABOUT ITS TASTE, AND YET YOU DARE TO SAY IT'S DELICIOUS?! DON'T YOU DARE SPEAK WITHOUT KNOWING, GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!

WE DON'T SERVE SUSHI FOR THE LIKES OF YOU, SO GET OUTTA HERE! SCRAM!
GAH!!
HUH!?

OH, DELICIOUS ONES, OH!
...SILENCE. HUH...
THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS, JUST BECAUSE IT'S A FAMOUS RESTAURANT...
GOOD GRIEF... I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO START OVER.
WE HAVE A TON OF PEOPLE FLOCKING TO EAT OUR SUSHI, BUT ONLY A SELECT FEW ACTUALLY HAVE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO TASTE IT.
SO, UNLESS YOU'RE A TOP-NOTCH INDIVIDUAL, YOU AIN'T QUALIFIED TO EAT OUR SUSHI, YA KNOW?
OUR JOKES ARE TOP-NOTCH, OUR SUSHI IS THE BEST, AND ABOVE ALL, IT'S MY SKILLS THAT SHINE THE BRIGHTEST!
SAME OLD, SAME OLD.
NOW, SHALL I SHOW YOU MY SKILLS?

WHAT'S UP OVER THERE?
FLOUNDER.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA HAVE?
AND YOU?
MICHI
I'LL HAVE THE SEA BASS.
I-I'LL HAVE THE SEA BREAM.
POOR...
WELL, LET'S SEE... WHAT SHOULD I HAVE...
UGH, DON'T YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO EAT?
POOR LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU ALWAYS CHOOSES THIS. HOW ANNOYING.
HEY, IF YOU'RE GONNA ORDER, DO IT QUICKLY! I'M BUSY HERE!
THAT'S JUST TOO MUCH! WE MAY NOT BE RICH, BUT WE'RE DOING ALRIGHT.

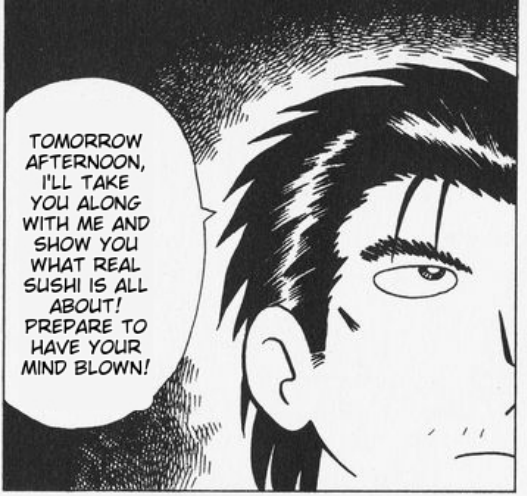
YOU KNOW WHAT? JUST GRAB SOME SUSHI PACKS FROM THE SUPERMARKET AND CALL IT A DAY, MAN.
HAH! YOU OTAKU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO HANDLE A TOP-NOTCH PLACE LIKE OURS.
UH... UM... ME...
HEY, COME ON, OLD MAN, CUT IT OUT ALREADY.
.....
NO, HE'S RIGHT. JUST GO AHEAD AND EAT THOSE SUSHI PACKS.
!
SERIOUSLY, THOSE SUPERMARKET SUSHI PACKS ARE WAY TASTIER THAN THE ONES IN THIS JOINT.
THIS IS AWFUL!!! EVEN YAMAOKA-SAN IS...

WHAT?! YOU DARE CRITICIZE GINJIRO'S SKILLS?!
銀五郎
WHAT THE HELL? WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
ALL THE EFFORT PUT INTO THESE AMAZING INGREDIENTS AND RICE, AND THEY'RE CRYING NOW.
YEAH, SURE, THE INGREDIENTS ARE TOP-NOTCH, THE RICE IS TOP-NOTCH, BUT HEY, OLD MAN, YOUR SKILLS ARE BOTTOM-NOTCH.

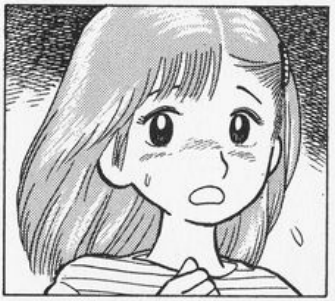
THAT GUY, HE'S STARTING SOMETHING AGAIN...
YOU KNOW, JAPAN IS A BIZARRE COUNTRY. THERE ARE CUSTOMERS WHO ACT ALL HUMBLE AND MAKE THE IDIOTIC CHEFS FEEL LIKE THEY'RE ON TOP OF THE WORLD.

DO YOU WANT TO GET KILLED?! THIS RESTAURANT IS RENOWNED AS THE BEST IN JAPAN! THE CUSTOMERS ARE ALL ARTISTS AND INFLUENTIAL FIGURES FROM THE POLITICAL AND BUSINESS WORLD!
AND HERE YOU ARE, A GREENHORN LIKE YOU!
銀五郎
AY! WHATCHA GOT THERE?

OH, GEEZ, OLD MAN, YOU'RE QUITE THE JOKER, HUH?


TOMORROW AFTERNOON, I'LL TAKE YOU ALONG WITH ME AND SHOW YOU WHAT REAL SUSHI IS ALL ABOUT! PREPARE TO HAVE YOUR MIND BLOWN!

I WON'T SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS THAN A SUSHI THAT SURPASSES GINZO! I WON'T STAND FOR IT!
DON'T YOU DARE MESS AROUND WITH ME!!



WELL, COUNT ME IN TOO!

東京都中央区　佃島——
YOU DRAGGED ME OUT TO A PLACE LIKE THIS?! THERE'S NO WAY THERE'S A DECENT SUSHI RESTAURANT HERE, MAN!
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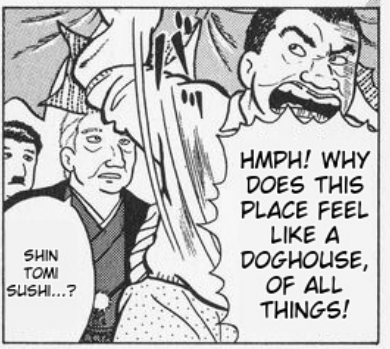
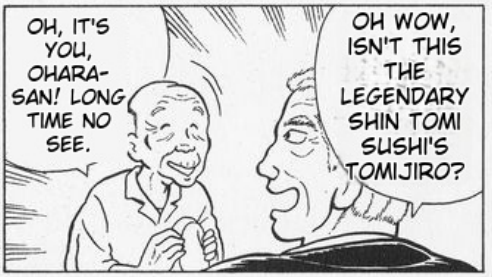
WELCOME, YAMAOKA-SAN. WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
SORRY FOR ASKING YOU TO COME TODAY.

IS... IS THIS THE PLACE?


HMPH! WHY DOES THIS PLACE FEEL LIKE A DOGHOUSE, OF ALL THINGS!
SHIN TOMI SUSHI...?


OH, IT'S YOU, OHARA-SAN! LONG TIME NO SEE.
OH WOW, ISN'T THIS THE LEGENDARY SHIN TOMI SUSHI'S TOMIJIRO?

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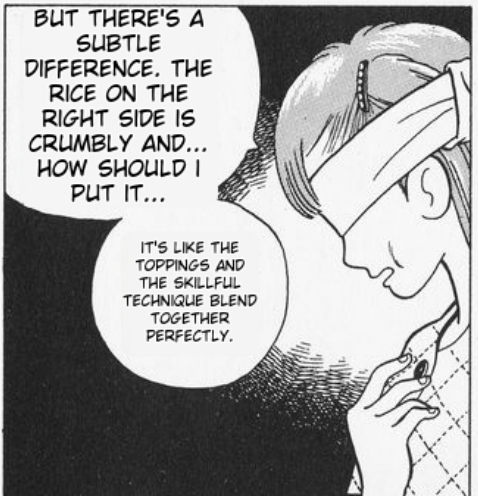
HMPH! I EXPECTED A TRUE MASTER, BUT INSTEAD WE HAVE THIS SENILE OLD MAN WHO'S LOST HIS SPARK. WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT! I FEEL LIKE I'VE BOARDED A SINKING SHIP!
NOW, LET'S GET STARTED, SHALL WE?

WELL THEN, GO AHEAD AND TRY IT.

GET FOUR PEOPLE TO JUDGE THE TASTE WITHOUT ANY PRECONCEPTIONS.
I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHICH SUSHI WAS MADE BY WHOM...

.....

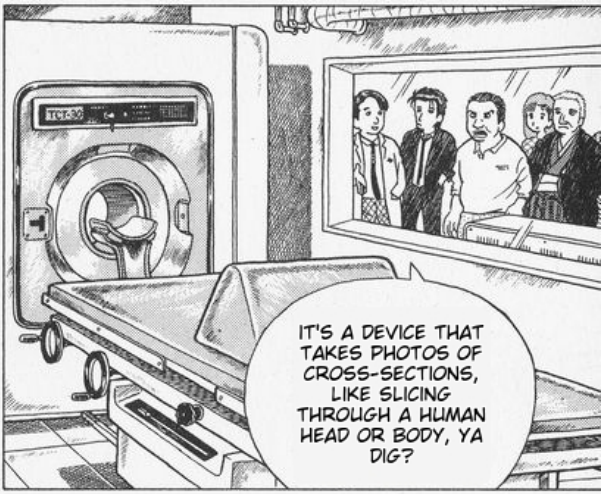

BUT THERE'S A SUBTLE DIFFERENCE. THE RICE ON THE RIGHT SIDE IS CRUMBLY AND... HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
IT'S LIKE THE TOPPINGS AND THE SKILLFUL TECHNIQUE BLEND TOGETHER PERFECTLY.

YEAH, I TOTALLY AGREE. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PICK A WINNER HERE.
NO, BOTH OF THEM ARE DELICIOUS AND I CAN'T DECIDE...

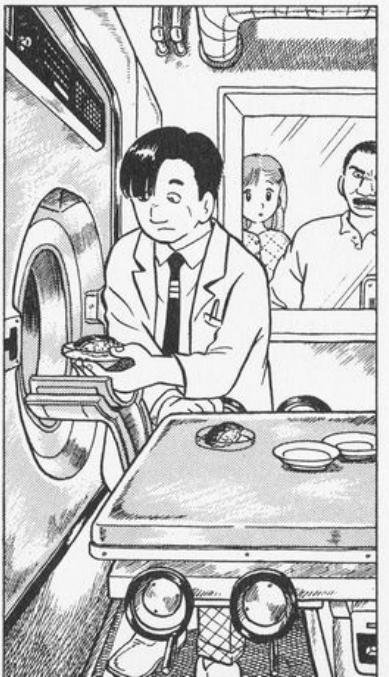
I'LL ALSO GO FOR THE ONE ON THE RIGHT. THE WAY THE RICE AND THE TOPPINGS HARMONIZE IS SIMPLY STUNNING.
WHAT THE...
WHY...
YEAH, LOOKING AT THE ONE ON THE LEFT, IT SEEMS LIKE EACH PIECE OF TOPPING AND RICE IS DELICIOUS ON ITS OWN, BUT TOGETHER, THEY FEEL ALL OVER THE PLACE.
I'LL SHOW YOU THE DIFFERENCE IN TASTE RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES.
IDIOTS! ARE ALL OF YOU OUT OF YOUR MINDS OR WHAT!?
WHAT THE HELL!?
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA LOSE!!
WHA...WHAT DO MY EYES SEE!?

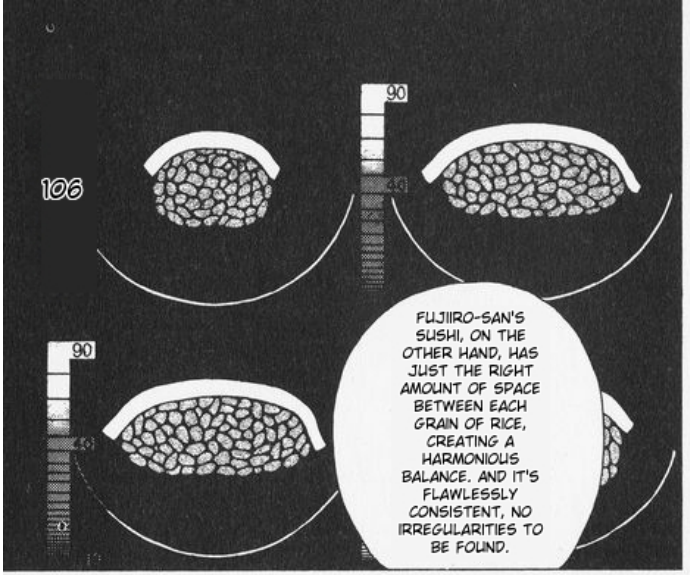
THIS BAD BOY IS CALLED A CT SCANNER...
東都大学病院

WHAT THE HECK CAN YOU EVEN FIND OUT FROM A MACHINE LIKE THIS, HUH?!
YO, I GOT YA COVERED, MAN! THESE RICE BALLS ARE SPRINKLED WITH CONTRAST AGENT, YA KNOW?
OH, INDEED.


IT'S A DEVICE THAT TAKES PHOTOS OF CROSS-SECTIONS, LIKE SLICING THROUGH A HUMAN HEAD OR BODY, YA DIG?

UM... WELL...

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FUJIIRO-SAN'S SUSHI, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF SPACE BETWEEN EACH GRAIN OF RICE, CREATING A HARMONIOUS BALANCE. AND IT'S FLAWLESSLY CONSISTENT, NO IRREGULARITIES TO BE FOUND.

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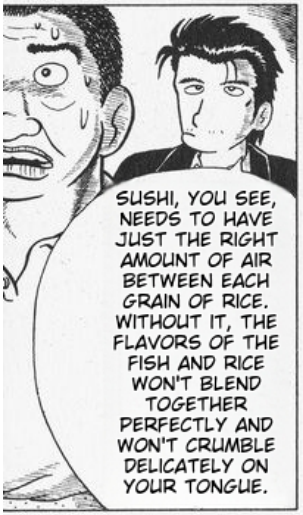
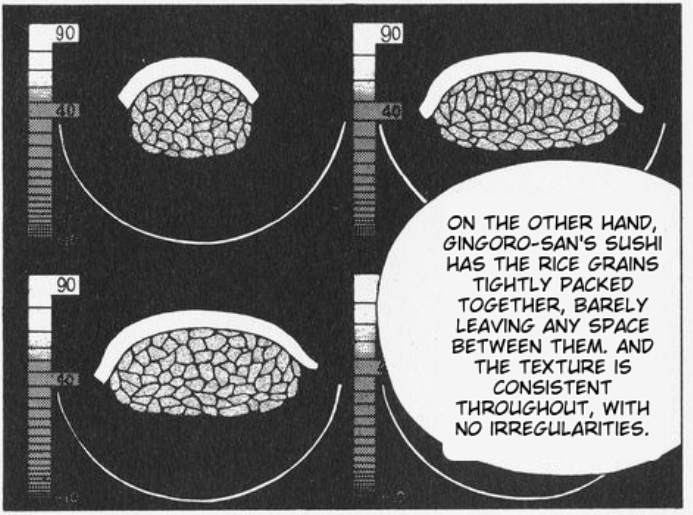

SUSHI, YOU SEE, NEEDS TO HAVE JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF AIR BETWEEN EACH GRAIN OF RICE. WITHOUT IT, THE FLAVORS OF THE FISH AND RICE WON'T BLEND TOGETHER PERFECTLY AND WON'T CRUMBLE DELICATELY ON YOUR TONGUE.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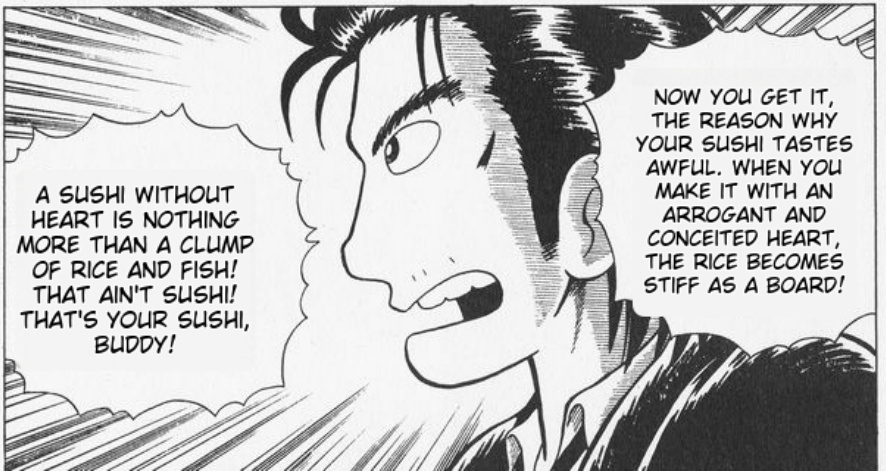
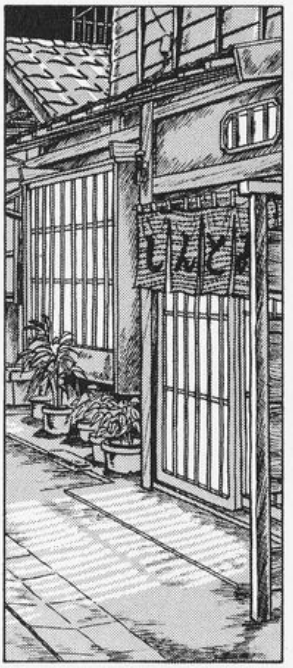
ON THE OTHER HAND, GINGORO-SAN'S SUSHI HAS THE RICE GRAINS TIGHTLY PACKED TOGETHER, BARELY LEAVING ANY SPACE BETWEEN THEM. AND THE TEXTURE IS CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT, WITH NO IRREGULARITIES.


A SUSHI WITHOUT HEART IS NOTHING MORE THAN A CLUMP OF RICE AND FISH! THAT AIN'T SUSHI! THAT'S YOUR SUSHI, BUDDY!
NOW YOU GET IT, THE REASON WHY YOUR SUSHI TASTES AWFUL. WHEN YOU MAKE IT WITH AN ARROGANT AND CONCEITED HEART, THE RICE BECOMES STIFF AS A BOARD!

WHAT THE HECK AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS GINGORO...
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GAIN FROM THIS, HUH?!
AFTER DRAGGING ME ALL THE WAY TO THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, YOU HAVE THE AUDACITY TO BELITTLE ME TO NO END?!
...I AM...
I JUST COULDN'T KEEP IT TO MYSELF, YA KNOW...
...?

WITH THIS, GINGORO WILL SURELY REMEMBER HIS OLD SKILLS...
HEHE.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT HE'D BE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
EVEN THOUGH WE WERE ONCE HAILED AS THE TOP SPOT IN GINZA, WE SUDDENLY CLOSED THE SHOP OVER 10 YEARS AGO.



WE'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT OF CUSTOMERS LIKE BUSINESS PEOPLE OR SELF-PROCLAIMED FOOD CONNOISSEURS... IT'S GETTING QUITE BUSY, YOU SEE...

SUSHI IS TRULY THE ESSENCE OF THE HEART, YOU KNOW.
WHENEVER I GET MY SUSHI MADE BY THE OLD MAN, I FEEL SO RELAXED AND HAPPY.

I WANTED TO RUN A HUMBLE, SINCERE BUSINESS HERE, SERVING FAMILIAR FACES LIKE IN THE OLD DAYS.

THEY SAY IT'S THE 'ULTIMATE MENU,' BUT HOW THE HECK CAN YOU EXPRESS THAT SOUL IN A MENU? IMPOSSIBLE!
IT'S NOT JUST SUSHI, ALL FOOD HAS A SOUL...
YOU'RE JUST LAZY AND TALK A BIG GAME WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING!
THIS OLD MAN HAS SPENT HIS WHOLE LIFE TRYING TO GRASP THE TRUE ESSENCE, AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, MR. YAMAOKA!?
MR. YAMAOKA HAS NO RIGHT TO EAT SUSHI HERE!
WHAT?
.....

OH, OISHINBO
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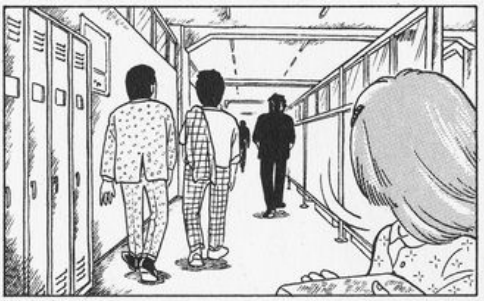
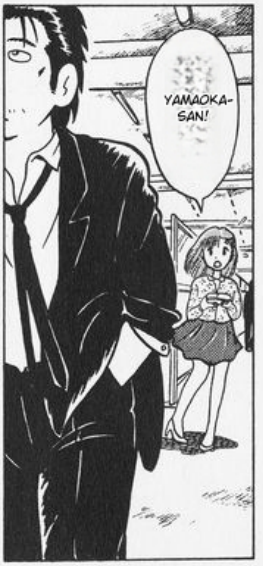
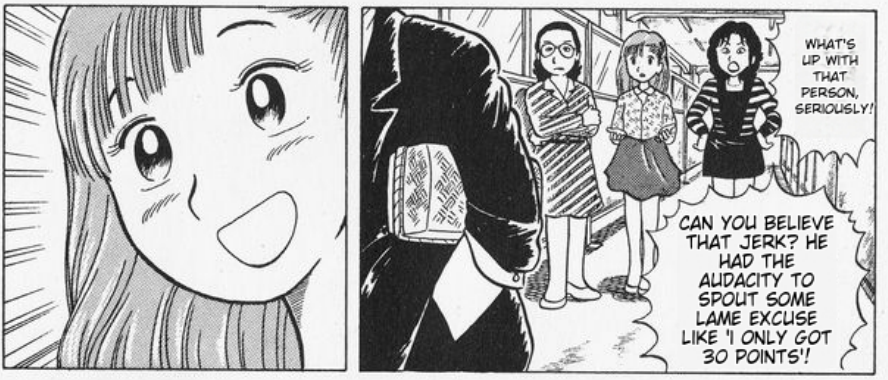
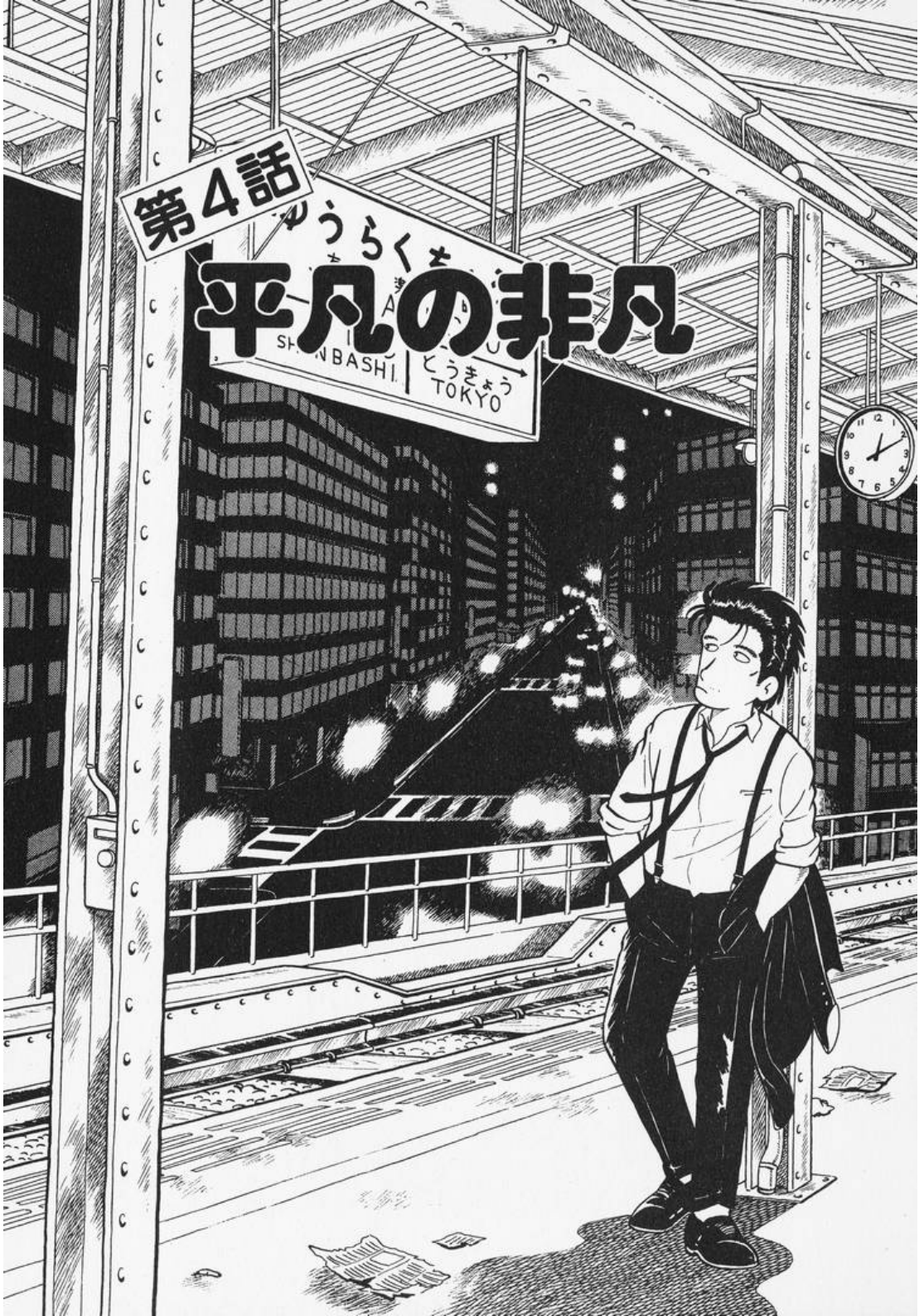




WELL, I'M TAKING OFF THEN. GOTTA HIT UP THE RACETRACK 'CAUSE MY STOMACH'S GROWLING!
.....


WHAT'S UP WITH THAT PERSON, SERIOUSLY!
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT JERK? HE HAD THE AUDACITY TO SPOUT SOME LAME EXCUSE LIKE 'I ONLY GOT 30 POINTS'!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TOKYO

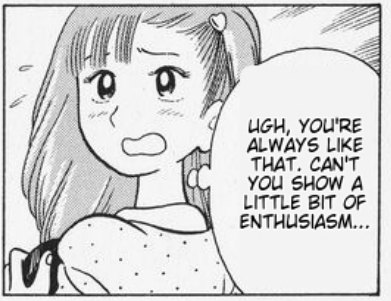
IT WILL BE A MAJOR HIGHLIGHT OF THE 'IMPRESSIONIST ART EXHIBITION' PROJECT, DIRECTOR!
IT'S A MASTERPIECE THAT'S SAID TO BE STRICTLY EXCLUSIVE TO THE KYOGOKU FAMILY, AND ON TOP OF THAT, IT'S THEIR BEST WORK.
ANYWAY, IT'S A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT FOR OUR DEPARTMENT. TO HAVE MR. KYOGOKU MANTARO, THE BILLIONAIRE FROM KYOTO, LEND US A MASTERPIECE BY RENOIR...
NOT ONLY IN GINZA, BUT IT'S ALSO A TOP-NOTCH RESTAURANT IN ALL OF JAPAN. SEEMS LIKE THEY HAVE A DISCERNING TASTE IN FOOD.
SO, ABOUT MR. KYOGOKU'S RECEPTION, I'M THINKING OF GOING WITH 'HANAKAWA'.
DEPARTMENT MANAGER, YU OKUNO

IF IT'S FOR ENTERTAINING CLIENTS, I'LL GLADLY ACCEPT.
YAMAOKA-KUN, YOU TOO.

YES...
KNOWING THE TASTE OF A TOP-CLASS RESTAURANT WILL SURELY BE BENEFICIAL FOR YOUR WORK.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY, SO KURITA-KUN, YOU SHOULD JOIN US TOO.

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT EMPLOYEE?
HEY, WHEN I SAY 'HANAKAWA,' IT'S NOT A PLACE FOR SMALL FRY LIKE YOU TO ENTER, YOU KNOW!

HANAKAWA... IS IT?


UGH, YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT. CAN'T YOU SHOW A LITTLE BIT OF ENTHUSIASM...

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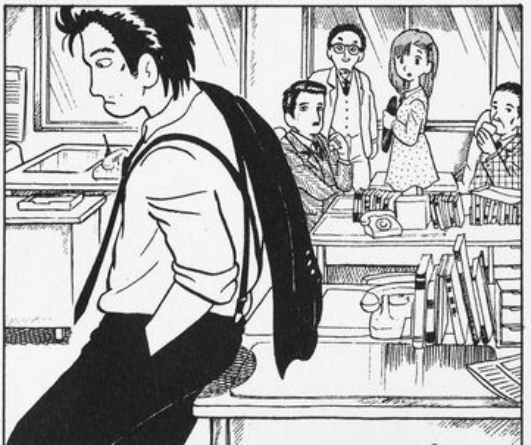
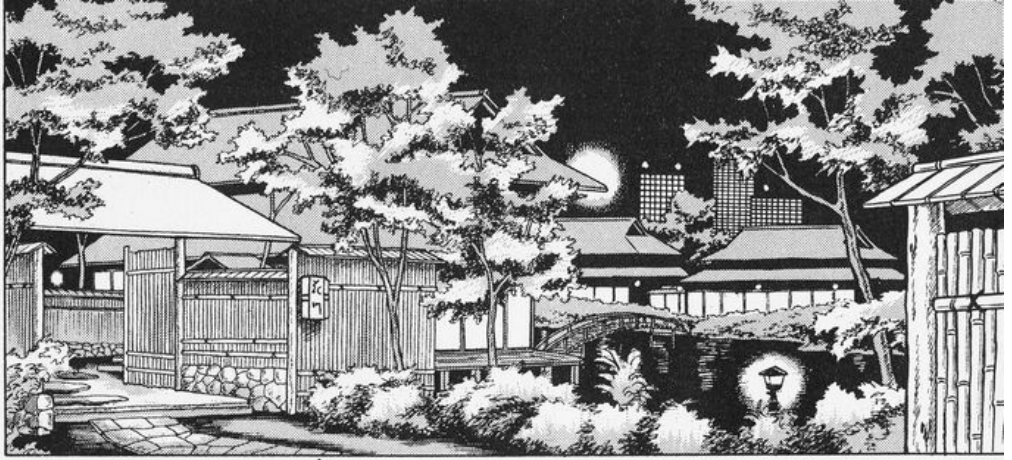




I'M A PERSON WHO HAS NO OTHER JOY IN LIFE THAN EATING!
OH MY, WE'VE HEARD THAT YOU HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF HOBBIES.

THIS FEELS LIKE SOMETHING A BILLIONAIRE WOULD DO...

YOU'RE FAMOUS FOR BEING A GREAT GOURMET... TODAY, I'VE CAREFULLY SELECTED THE DISHES.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

OH, YOU'RE HERE! YOU'RE HERE! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT KIND OF DISH IT IS!

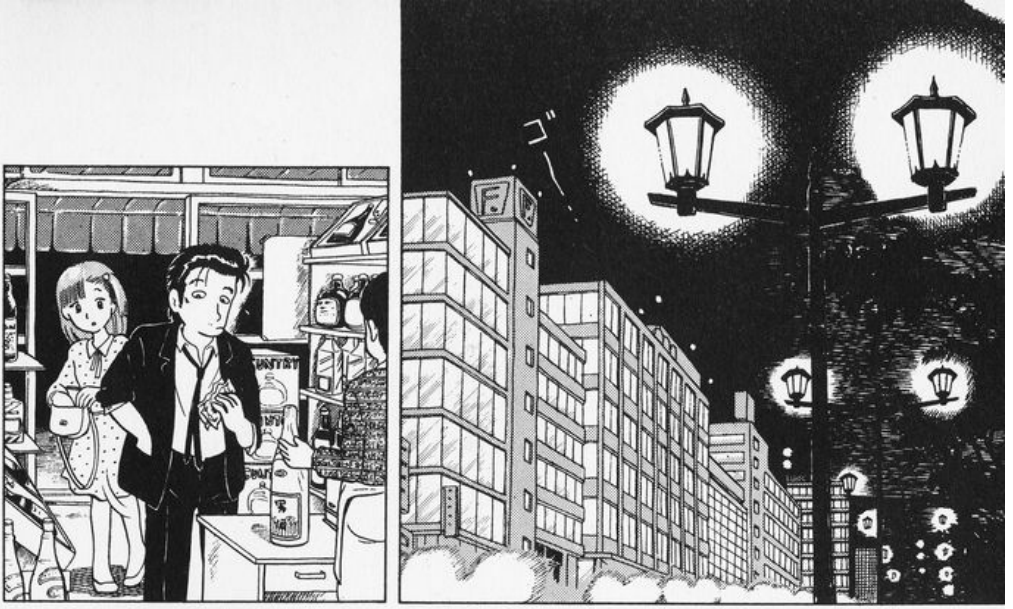
WE'VE GOT A ZESTY MIX OF SEA BREAM SASHIMI AND BOILED BRACKEN HERE.
WELL, WELL, IT'S NO SURPRISE COMING FROM HANAKAWA!
OH, THIS SEA BREAM IS SIMPLY SCRUMPTIOUS, ISN'T IT!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, HERE'S ONE FOR YOU.
SEA BREAM, HUH?
.....
...IT'S DELICIOUS, BUT...
BUT WHY DOES IT FEEL SO DRY AND CRUMBLY?

JUN... JUNNA, YOU SAY?
WOW, IS THIS WHAT JUNNA LOOKS LIKE...?
WE'VE GOT A MAJESTIC DRAGON HEAD MADE OF SPINY LOBSTER, TOPPED WITH A GARNISH OF JUNNA GREENS!
?
IT'S SLIMY AND FASCINATING... AND DELICIOUS!
IT'S MADE WITH AYU FISH.
THIS JUNNA, THE TEXTURE AND FLAVOR...

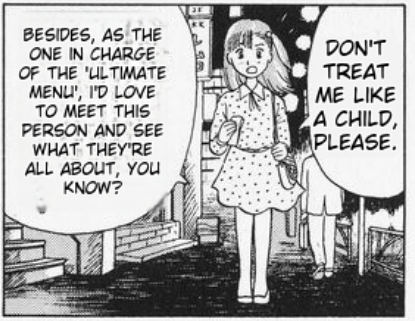
HUH? ARE YOU SERIOUS?
I... I'VE HAD ENOUGH!!
UH... UM...
I AIN'T GONNA EAT NO ARTIFICIAL, FLAVORLESS, FARMED TROUT, EVEN IF I DIE!!
AND ON TOP OF THAT, IT'S TROUT!! THE TROUT SEASON DOESN'T START UNTIL JUNE 1ST!
BY THE TIME SEA BREAM GOES BEYOND APRIL, IT BECOMES THIN AND LOSES ITS TASTE AND CHARM, I TELL YOU!!
ISN'T EVERYTHING OUT OF SEASON? IT'S MAY NOW, YOU KNOW!!
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS 'JUNNA' THING? SOME KIND OF FANCY DISH!?
WAIT, MR. KYOGOKU!
W-WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
THERE'S NO WAY I'M LENDING MY RENOIR, A MASTERPIECE THAT YOU INSENSITIVE HUMANS WOULDN'T APPRECIATE!!
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE FROM TOKYO!!

ENOUGH ALREADY, SHUT UP!!
APOLOGIES FOR THE IMPOLITENESS!
YAMAOKA-SAN...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
OH BOY, SURE THE FOOD WAS TERRIBLE, BUT TO GET SO BENT OUT OF SHAPE OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS? WHAT A TIGHT-ASS OLD MAN...
OH, DID YOU HEAR THAT? MY BAD!!
ALL I DID WAS SHARE MY THOUGHTS AS MUTTERINGS... IS THAT SO? YOU HEARD IT, HUH...
WHAT, YOU THINK I'M MOCKING YOU? WHO THE HELL MUTTERS TO THEMSELVES IN SUCH A SHRILL VOICE?!
S-STOP IT, THAT'S RUDE!!
YOU IDIOT!!

I'M NOT A MAN THAT TAKES INSULTS LIKE THIS LAYING DOWN!!!!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO IF I'M NOT CONVINCED, HUH?!
SO, HOW ABOUT TREATING ME TO ANOTHER FEAST TOMORROW? AND IF I CAN CONVINCE YOU, I'D LIKE TO BORROW YOUR RENOIR.
YOUR RENOIR IS APPARENTLY THE STAR OF THE UPCOMING EXHIBITION, YOU KNOW...
.....
DO YOU HAVE ANY TRICKS UP YOUR SLEEVE? TO SURPASS EVEN THIS 'HANAKAWA' LEVEL OF RESTAURANT?
SHAVING MY HEAD... THAT'S ONE OUTRAGEOUS PROMISE I'VE BEEN FORCED INTO, BUT...
THERE'S A MAN WHO KNOWS EVERY SINGLE DELICIOUS RESTAURANT IN GINZA. WITH HIS HELP...
WELL, LET'S GIVE IT A SHOT...



SUCH A BOTHER... IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR YOU TO STAY THIS LATE...
IF IT'S A GIFT, I'M YOUR GAL... 'CAUSE PAYDAY IS STILL A WAYS OFF, YOU KNOW!


BESIDES, AS THE ONE IN CHARGE OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU', I'D LOVE TO MEET THIS PERSON AND SEE WHAT THEY'RE ALL ABOUT, YOU KNOW?
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A CHILD, PLEASE.

HMPH, DO AS YOU PLEASE THEN.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE THEY MIGHT BE AROUND HERE?
WELL, IT VARIES FROM DAY TO DAY, YOU KNOW...
GINZA SURE WRAPS UP EARLY, HUH? THE SHOPS ARE ALREADY CLOSED...
I THINK THEY MIGHT BE AROUND THIS AREA...
HEY, I'VE CLEANED UP THE TRASH BIN FOR YOU.
HEY, THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
OH, THERE YOU ARE!
?
OH, THAT'S TATSU, THE WANDERING SOUL. HE KNOWS EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF GINZA'S SHOPS.
HUH? WAIT... ISN'T THAT PERSON OVER THERE!?
HEHEH, ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE, HUH?
HEY, TAKE THESE LEFTOVERS. THEY'RE JUST GONNA GO TO WASTE.

銀座線
GINZA Line
OH, HOW EMBARRASSING... EVERYONE'S WATCHING...

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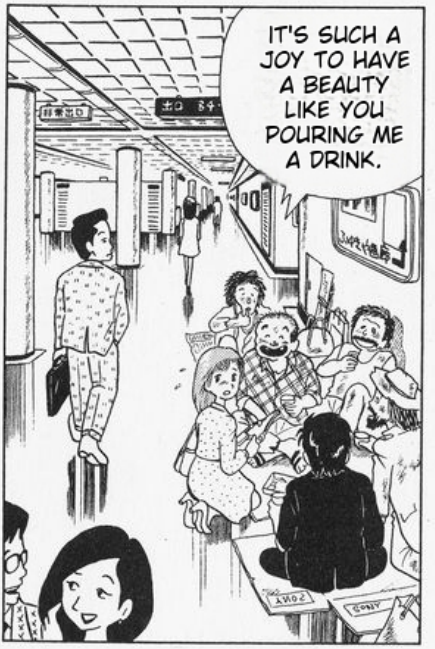
SUBWAY

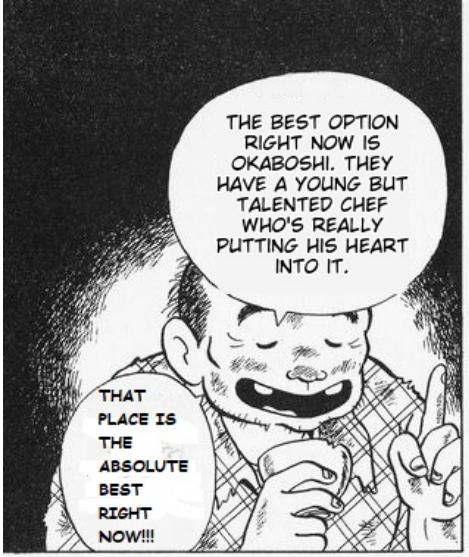
UH... UH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
HERE, TRY THIS AND SEE FOR YOURSELF, IT'S MADE TO PERFECTION.

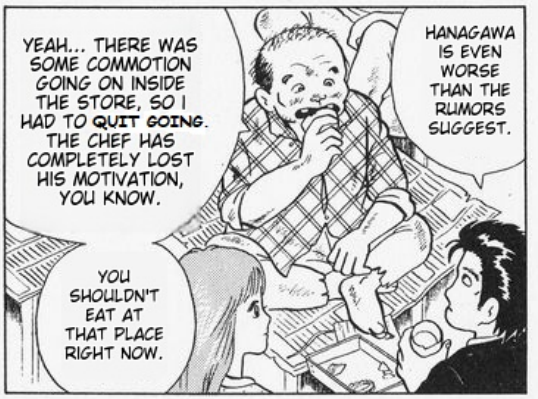

IT'S SUCH A JOY TO HAVE A BEAUTY LIKE YOU POURING ME A DRINK.

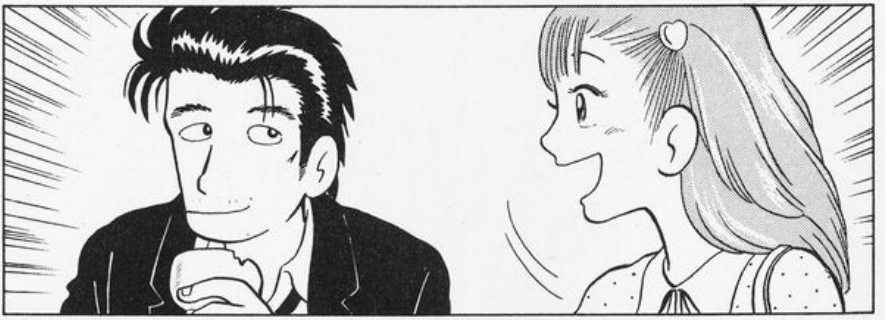
AND LET ME TELL YOU, THE FLAVOR IS SOMETHING ELSE, THAT CHEF HAS REALLY STEPPED UP THEIR GAME LATELY. I CAN SEE THAT JOINT BECOMING TOP-NOTCH IN NO TIME.
IS THAT A STEAMED SAKE WITH A TOUCH OF ELEGANCE?

SERIOUSLY... IT'S BECAUSE I'M A WANDERER THAT I'VE BECOME AN EXPERT ON EATERIES...

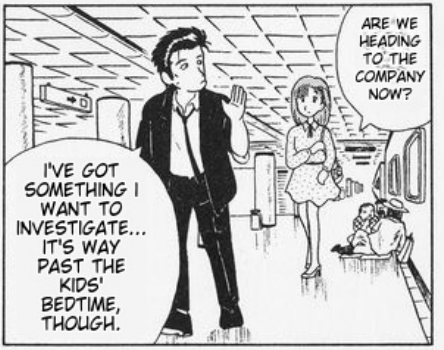
THAT'S WHY I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES OF THIS UNKNOWN JOINT. I'M TELLING YOU, BEING A DRIFTER HAS MADE ME MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT RESTAURANTS THAN ANYONE ELSE...
TATSU-SAN CLEANS UP THE TRASH FROM ALL THE SHOPS IN GINZA WHILE MUNCHING ON LEFTOVERS.

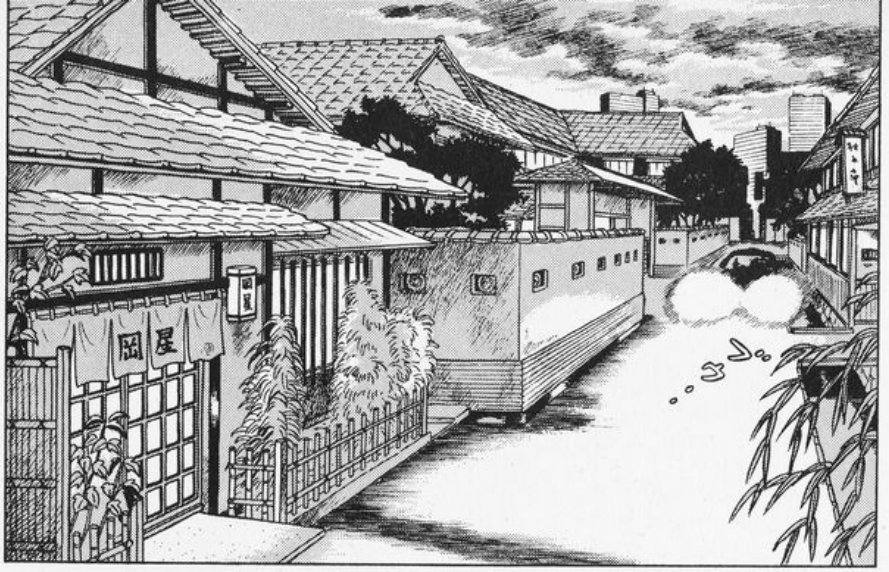

THE BEST OPTION RIGHT NOW IS OKABOSHI. THEY HAVE A YOUNG BUT TALENTED CHEF WHO'S REALLY PUTTING HIS HEART INTO IT.
THAT PLACE IS THE ABSOLUTE BEST RIGHT NOW!!!


HANAGAWA IS EVEN WORSE THAN THE RUMORS SUGGEST.
YEAH... THERE WAS SOME COMMOTION GOING ON INSIDE THE STORE, SO I HAD TO QUIT GOING. THE CHEF HAS COMPLETELY LOST HIS MOTIVATION, YOU KNOW.
YOU SHOULDN'T EAT AT THAT PLACE RIGHT NOW.



GINZA LINE, THE SILVER LIFELINE OF THIS CITY!


ARE WE HEADING TO THE COMPANY NOW?
I'VE GOT SOMETHING I WANT TO INVESTIGATE... IT'S WAY PAST THE KIDS' BEDTIME, THOUGH.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DO YOU REALLY THINK WE CAN GET SOME TASTY GRUB IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
WHAT A SHABBY LITTLE JOINT, HUH?

岡星

LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD, SHALL WE?
ALL RIGHTY THEN, LET'S DO THIS!

WELL, WELL, WELL. WELCOME!

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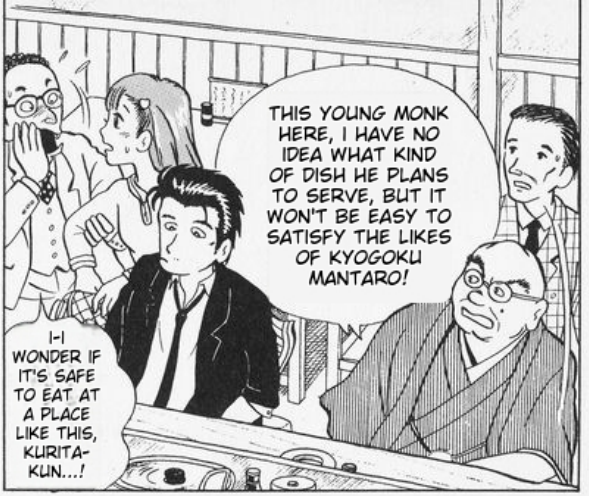
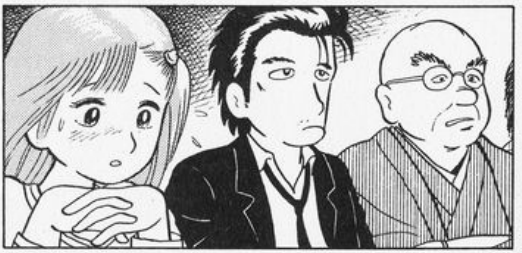
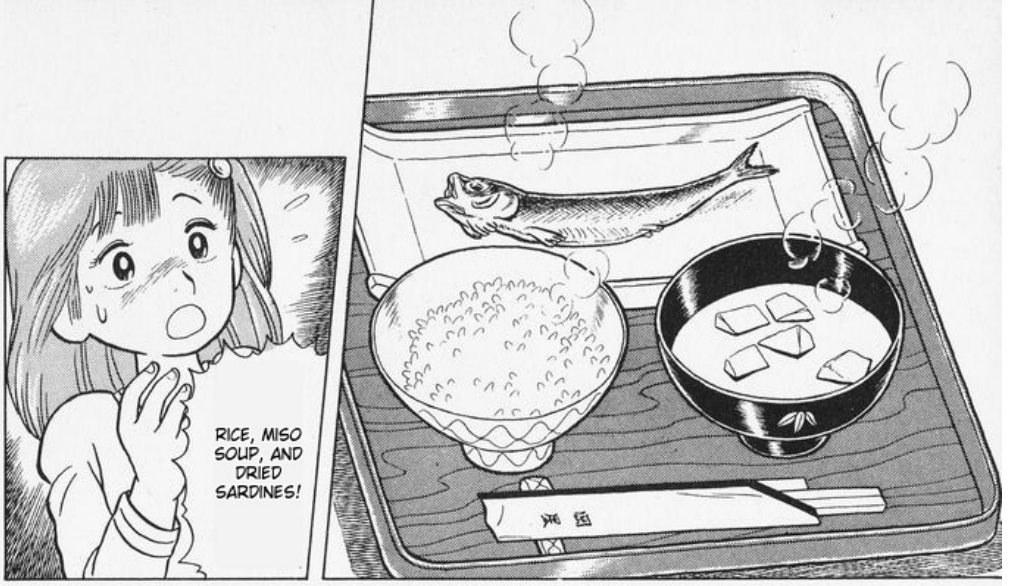




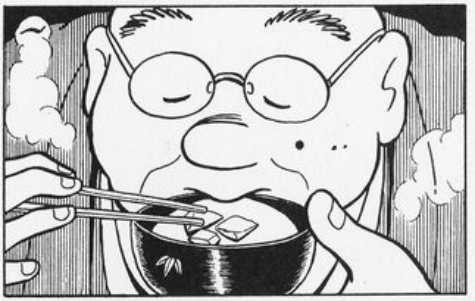

RICE, MISO SOUP, AND DRIED SARDINES!

YAMAOKA, THIS IS A JOKE, RIGHT?!!! THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING ELSE!!!

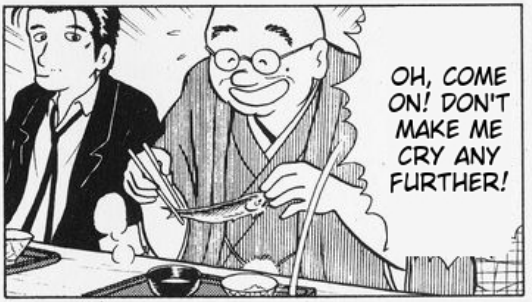
JUST WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON, YAMAOKA?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TRUST YAMAOKA WITH THIS!!!
OH NO!!! WHY?!!!
WAIT A MOMENT!
NO, THIS IS IT.
THIS IS THE WHOLE MENU FOR TODAY...

AND EACH GRAIN STANDS TALL... NOT TO MENTION THEY'RE ALL THE SAME SIZE...
...ISN'T THE GLOSSY SHINE OF THIS RICE JUST LIKE A JEWEL...
.....
LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE BACKGROUND OF THIS RICE TOO...
WASHING AWAY ONLY THE DIRT AND EXCESS BRAN, IT'S AN INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT SKILL TO PRESERVE THE FLAVOR AND THE NICE SCENT OF THE RICE...
...THIS STICKINESS, THIS FRAGRANCE, IT'S PERFECTLY COOKED...
THE WEALTH I'VE BUILT UP NOW BEGAN WITH MAKING A FORTUNE IN THE PRE-WAR RICE MARKET... I'VE NEVER NEGLECTED THE STUDY OF RICE EVEN TILL NOW.
AMAZING, FROM THE PLACE OF ORIGIN TO THE VARIETY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...!
IT'S SANISHIKI, AND NOT JUST ANY, IT'S SHONAI RICE. FROM YOMENOMAE, YAMAGATA PREFECTURE!
HOW DID YOU DO IT?
WELL DONE, IT'S A HIT!

THE RICE IS COOKED IN AN OLD-FASHIONED KAMADO, FUELED BY WOOD AND... RIGHT BEFORE IT'S PERFECTLY COOKED, A HANDFUL OF STRAW IS SET ABLAZE, MAKING IT FLUFFY AND OH-SO DELICIOUS.
SURE THING!
THE RICE IS DRIED UNDER THE SUN, NOT IN A MACHINE, AND I POLISHED IT MYSELF JUST A MOMENT AGO. THAT'S HOW IT'S DONE, YOU KNOW.



WHICH MEANS THIS MISO SOUP IS...


OH, COME ON! DON'T MAKE ME CRY ANY FURTHER!

THE GRILLING METHOD IS JUST RIGHT, REMINDING ME OF THE TASTE OF MY HOMETOWN. AH, SO NOSTALGIC!
AND THE AUTHENTIC TOSA-STYLE SUN-DRIED FISH!

OH... IT'S THE REAL DEAL, USING DOMESTICALLY GROWN SOYBEANS AND NATURAL SALT, CREATING AUTHENTIC MISO.
THE BROTH IS MADE FROM BONITO FLAKES, WITH ONLY THE FINEST PARTS FROM MAKI AND THE ESSENCE OF MAKURAZAKI. TALK ABOUT TOP-NOTCH INGREDIENTS.
AND THE TOFU IS MADE WITH DOMESTICALLY GROWN SOYBEANS AND AUTHENTIC NIGARI.

THAT WAS A FEAST!
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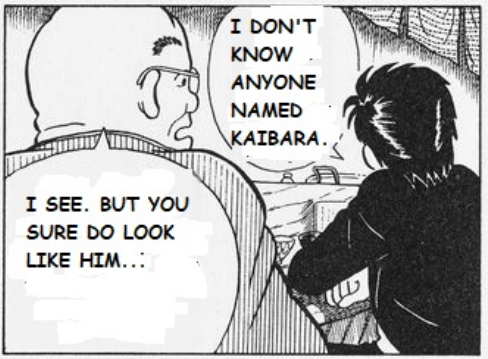
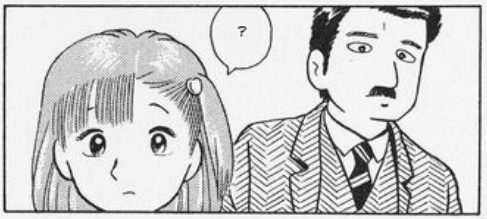
HEY, MR. ITAMAE, DID YOU REALLY GO ALL OUT AND RESEARCH EVERYTHING ABOUT ME, A GUY WHO MADE IT BIG IN THE RICE MARKET FROM TOSA, JUST TO CREATE SUCH A SPECTACLE?
YES, ACTUALLY, THEY'RE RIGHT OVER THERE...
WE DID IT!!
THANK YOU, MR. KYOGOKU!!
HEY THERE!
AS A TOKEN OF MY GRATITUDE, FEEL FREE TO MAKE GOOD USE OF MY RENOIR.
WELL, WELL, YOU'VE CERTAINLY GIVEN ME THE JOY OF TASTING A MEAL SO EXQUISITE THAT I HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED IN DECADES AS A BORN AND BRED JAPANESE.
BY THE WAY, YOU KNOW... EVER SINCE WE FIRST MET, I'VE BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING...
THANKS TO YOU, WE CAN NOW OPEN A MAGNIFICENT EXHIBITION!!
WHAT A COMPLETE TURNAROUND!

YOU LOOK JUST LIKE THE SON OF KAIBARA YUZAN. THE ONE WHO RAN AWAY FROM HOME.


I DON'T KNOW ANYONE NAMED KAIBARA.
I SEE. BUT YOU SURE DO LOOK LIKE HIM...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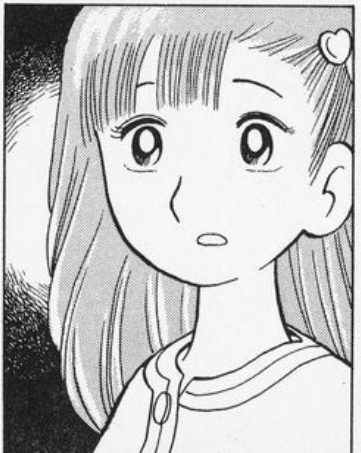

YAMAOKA, YOU DID GREAT! THAT'S A MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT! TONIGHT, WE'RE GONNA PARTY HARD!
ALL OVER THE NAME OF MR. KAIBARA
...WHY DID YAMAOKA GET SO FLUSTERED LIKE THAT, I WONDER...
HUH? THAT'S WEIRD, HE WAS JUST RIGHT HERE...
THE VILLAGE CREW!
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PERSON RECOMMENDED THIS PLACE AS THE BEST. THEY MUST BE A REAL FOODIE, HUH?
SHALL WE GO...
W-WELL, UH...

EAST CAPITAL BANK, OPERATION EXCELLENCE AT ITS FINEST!
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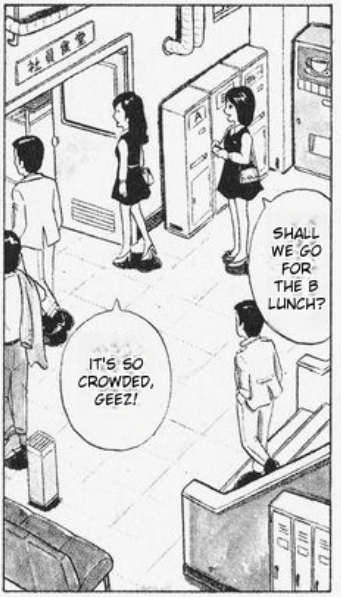
ゴー…

IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A BEEF STEW THIS GOOD ELSEWHERE, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO A PRETTY FANCY RESTAURANT, HONEY.
THIS CRAB CROQUETTE IS ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS.


SHALL WE GO FOR THE B LUNCH?
IT'S SO CROWDED, GEEZ!

HE'S APPARENTLY A YOUNG CHEF WHO JUST JOINED US LAST YEAR, BUT HE'S A GEM OF OUR COMPANY.

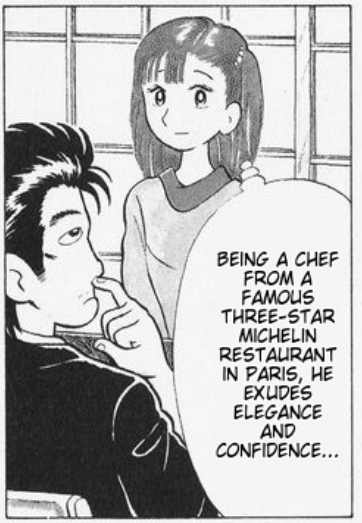
IT SEEMS LIKE PEOPLE FROM OTHER COMPANIES ARE FLOCKING HERE TO EAT.
OUR CAFETERIA'S CHEF HAS SOME SERIOUS SKILLS, HUH?

A FEAST FOR THE TASTE BUDS!

WOW, I'M SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT MR. LUPIC IS TRYING MATSUSAKA BEEF FOR THE FIRST TIME!
EVEN THOUGH I HEARD THAT HE'S BEEN TO JAPAN MULTIPLE TIMES BEFORE OUR COMPANY INVITED HIM FOR THIS CULINARY TRAINING.

MATSUSAKA BEEF, THE PRIDE OF ISE GIN.

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I'VE NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TASTE IT. I NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO TRY MATSUSAKA BEEF.
THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER DISHES TO DISCOVER IN JAPAN! HE SHOULD'VE TRIED VARIOUS JAPANESE CUISINES.


BEING A CHEF FROM A FAMOUS THREE-STAR MICHELIN RESTAURANT IN PARIS, HE EXUDES ELEGANCE AND CONFIDENCE...

OH, YOU GOURMET, YOU!

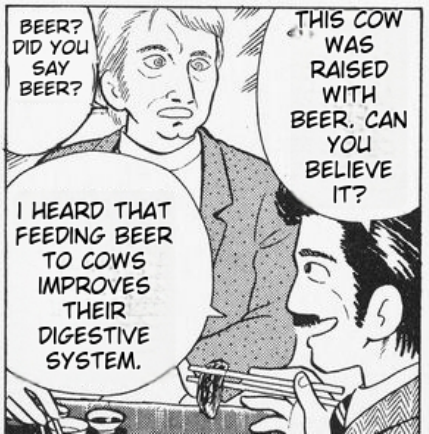
I NEVER THOUGHT BEEF AND SOY SAUCE WOULD GO SO WELL TOGETHER. IT'S MIND-BLOWING!
OH, IT'S DELICIOUS.

NO WAY! THIS BEEF JUST MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH. IS THIS REALLY BEEF?!
IT'S SO TENDER!

HEHE, YOU'RE A TRUE PATRIOT, YOU HAVE SUCH ATTENTION TO DETAIL.

NOTHING BEATS FRENCH BEEF WHEN IT COMES TO FILLET STEAK. IT'S THE BEST.
THIS IS THE BEST FILLET IN THE WORLD!
THIS GRILLED DISH IS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING.

UN COUTEAU S'IL-OUS-PLAÎT. CAN I HAVE A KNIFE, PLEASE?
ENJOY IT WITH GRATED RADISH, SESAME SAUCE, PONZU, OR WASABI SOY SAUCE. CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE FLAVOR.


BEER? DID YOU SAY BEER?
THIS COW WAS RAISED WITH BEER. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
I HEARD THAT FEEDING BEER TO COWS IMPROVES THEIR DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.

OH, MR. LUPIC, YOU DON'T NEED A KNIFE. LOOK, YOU CAN TEAR IT APART WITH CHOPSTICKS.
OH! WOW!

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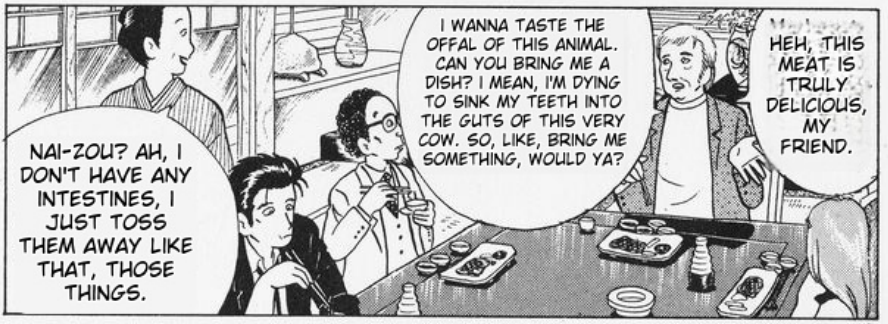
WOW! CAN YOU BELIEVE ALL THE EFFORT THAT WENT INTO THAT?! I BET IT'S EVEN TASTIER THAN FRENCH BEEF!
HOW 'BOUT THAT? TASTIER THAN FRENCH BEEF, RIGHT? I MEAN, COME ON, IT'S OUTTA THIS WORLD!

YOU'VE GONE AND RUINED THE GOOD MOOD, TOMII!!!
BECAUSE YOU KEEP INSISTING THAT IT'S TASTIER THAN FRENCH MEAT...

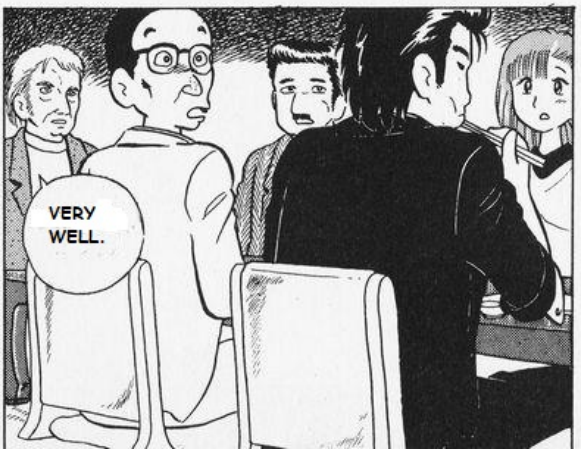

NAI-ZOU? AH, I DON'T HAVE ANY INTESTINES, I JUST TOSS THEM AWAY LIKE THAT, THOSE THINGS.
I WANNA TASTE THE OFFAL OF THIS ANIMAL. CAN YOU BRING ME A DISH? I MEAN, I'M DYING TO SINK MY TEETH INTO THE GUTS OF THIS VERY COW. SO, LIKE, BRING ME SOMETHING, WOULD YA?
HEH, THIS MEAT IS TRULY DELICIOUS, MY FRIEND.

OFFAL IN JAPAN? DO THEY REALLY JUST TOSS IT ASIDE?
OH, INDEED. YOU WON'T FIND IT IN A TOP RESTAURANT.
WAIT A MOMENT! YOU JUST THROW IT OUT?!
YOU'RE THROWING AWAY THE OFFAL?! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

THE INTERNAL ORGANS ARE THE MOST DELICIOUS PART AND YOU JUST THROW THEM AWAY!!!
YOU'VE BEEN EATING MEAT FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS AND YET, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING ABOUT IT!

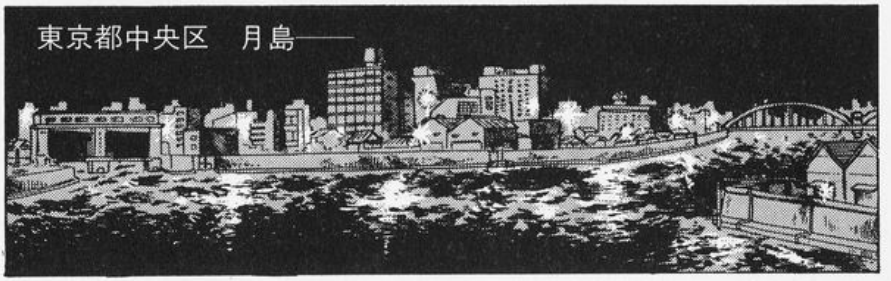
YOU JAPANESE DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO TALK ABOUT THE TASTE OF MEAT UNLESS YOU KNOW THE TASTE OF OFFAL.

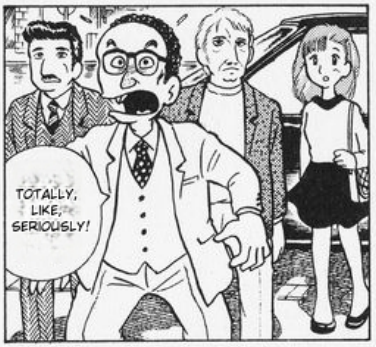
IN FRANCE, OFFAL DISHES ARE ON THE MENUS OF THE VERY BEST RESTAURANTS!
BUT THE OFFAL IS THE WORST PART!
I SAY IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE DELICIOUS MEAT UNLESS YOU UNDERSTAND THE TASTE OF OFFAL.


VERY WELL.

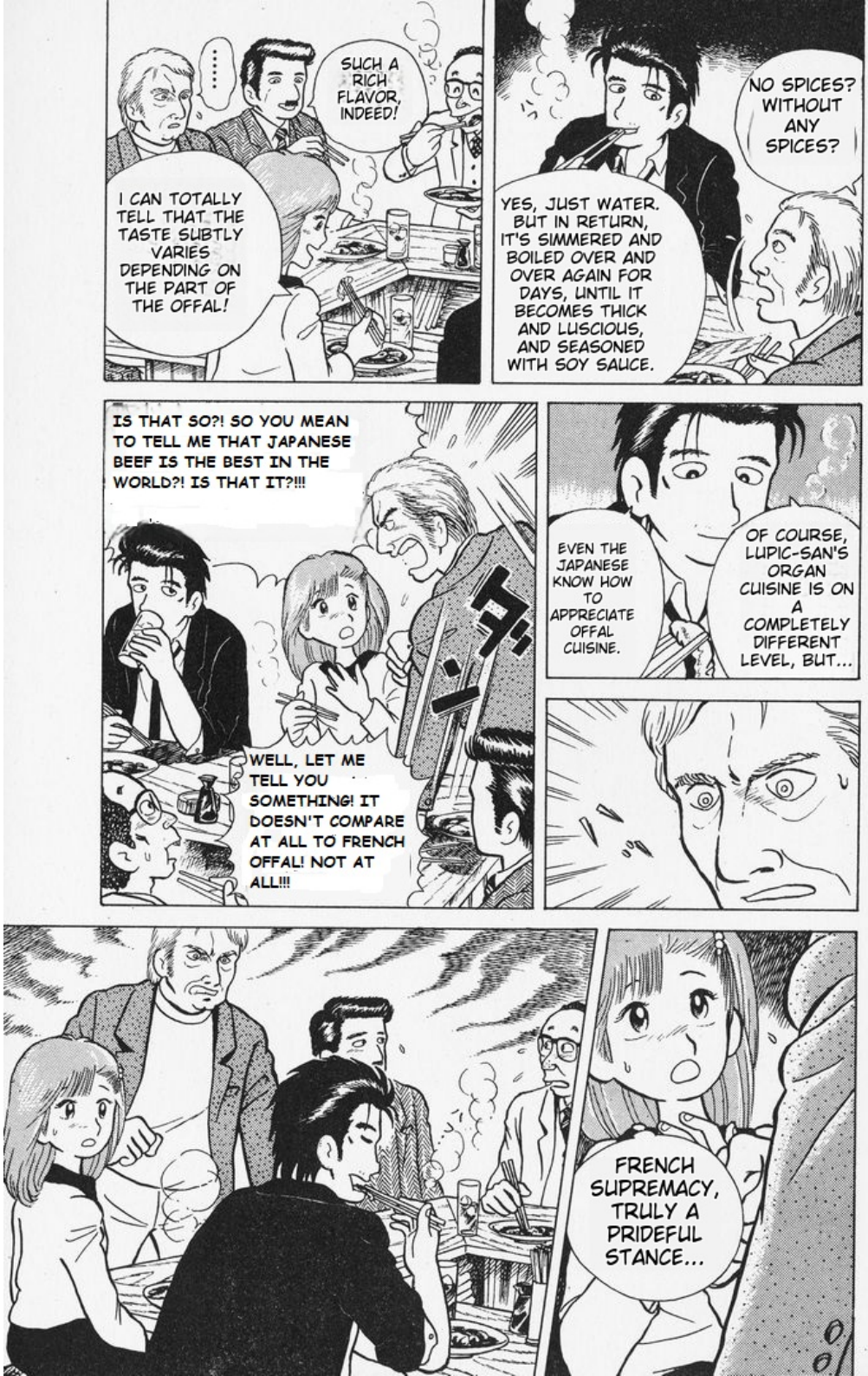
IT WON'T BE FANCY, BUT IF YOU WANT, I CAN SHOW YOU WHAT THE JAPANESE CAN DO WITH OFFAL.

LIKE, TOTALLY GOURMET!





EACH PIECE IS MUCH BIGGER THAN A REGULAR STEW.
THERE'S SOMETHING CREEPY ABOUT IT...
HERE YOU GO, A STEW WITH CHU-HAI.
A STEW WITH OFFAL?! ARE YOU TRYING TO FEED THAT TO CHEF YAMAOKA, A MICHELIN THREE-STAR CHEF?!
IT SEEMS TO HAVE ALL SORTS OF PARTS IN IT!
IT'S DELICIOUS!
OH! HOLY CRAP, THIS IS GOOD!
IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THE OFFAL, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COOK IT AS WELL... AND YET, WITHOUT USING ANY SPICES, IT DOESN'T SMELL LIKE GUTS AT ALL.
WHAT A WAY TO COOK! FANTASTIC!
THIS IS DELICIOUS, INDEED!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SUCH A RICH FLAVOR, INDEED!
I CAN TOTALLY TELL THAT THE TASTE SUBTLY VARIES DEPENDING ON THE PART OF THE OFFAL!
NO SPICES? WITHOUT ANY SPICES?
YES, JUST WATER. BUT IN RETURN, IT'S SIMMERED AND BOILED OVER AND OVER AGAIN FOR DAYS, UNTIL IT BECOMES THICK AND LUSCIOUS, AND SEASONED WITH SOY SAUCE.
IS THAT SO?! SO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT JAPANESE BEEF IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD?! IS THAT IT?!!!
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WELL, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING! IT DOESN'T COMPARE AT ALL TO FRENCH OFFAL! NOT AT ALL!!!
EVEN THE JAPANESE KNOW HOW TO APPRECIATE OFFAL CUISINE.
OF COURSE, LUPIC-SAN'S ORGAN CUISINE IS ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEVEL, BUT...
FRENCH SUPREMACY, TRULY A PRIDEFUL STANCE...

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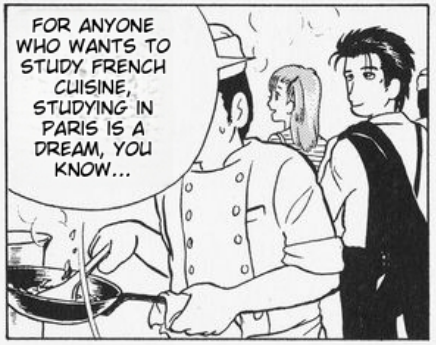
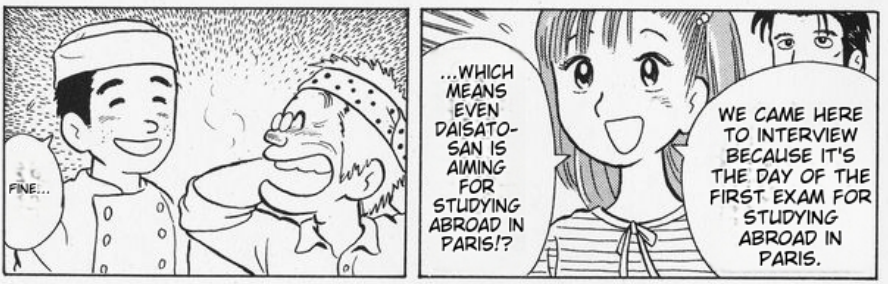
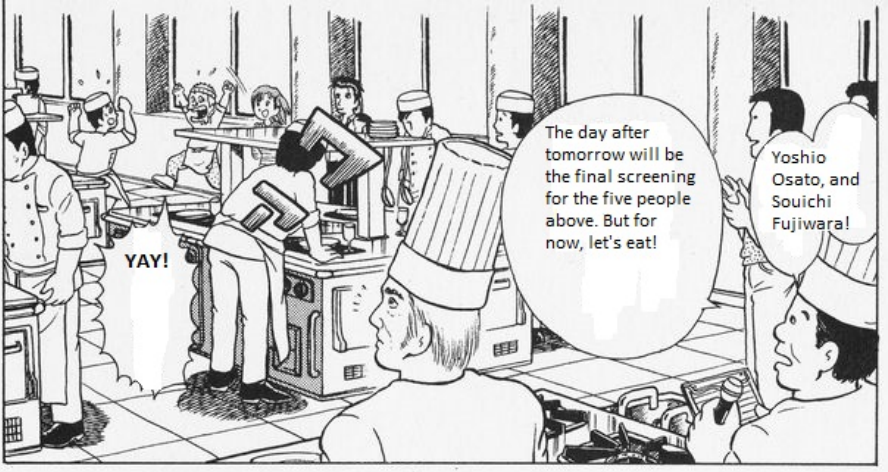

FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO STUDY FRENCH CUISINE, STUDYING IN PARIS IS A DREAM, YOU KNOW...

OUT OF OVER A HUNDRED PEOPLE WHO CAME FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO ATTEND THIS TRAINING, THE BEST COOK GETS A CHANCE TO STUDY IN PARIS, YOU KNOW?
WOW, EVERYONE IS SO FOCUSED!

AND ALSO DAISATO-SAN, THE COOK AT THE COMPANY CAFETERIA!
WELL, WELL, CAUGHT IN A TIGHT SPOT, AREN'T WE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
AH!
HUH? THE SECURITY GUARD!


FINE...
...WHICH MEANS EVEN DAISATO-SAN IS AIMING FOR STUDYING ABROAD IN PARIS!?
WE CAME HERE TO INTERVIEW BECAUSE IT'S THE DAY OF THE FIRST EXAM FOR STUDYING ABROAD IN PARIS.

NOW, LET'S ANNOUNCE THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FOR THE FIRST EXAM.
KIMURA MASAO,
MIZUNO KATSUYUKI!
MARUI ISAMU,


YAY!
The day after tomorrow will be the final screening for the five people above. But for now, let's eat!
Yoshio Osato, and Souichi Fujiwara!

Ca ne sera pas comme la viande!!
It won't be like meat!
La sauce est l'âme de la cuisine française. Vous ne pouvez pas faire la véritable sauce, vous les japonais!
Sauce is a favorite of French cuisine! You Japanese can't make the real sauce!

Si javais su qu'il était votre ami, je ne l'aurais pas admis.
If I had known he was your friend, I wouldn't have let you in.

What was that about?!

.....

IF WE'RE SKILLED ENOUGH, WE MIGHT EVEN GET A SPONSOR AND OPEN OUR OWN SHOP...
ONCE WE FINISH STUDYING IN PARIS AND COME BACK, WE CAN WORK AT A FANCY RESTAURANT...
B.V.D.

BEING A COOK AT THE COMPANY CAFETERIA JUST DOESN'T HAVE THE SAME DREAM-LIKE QUALITY...
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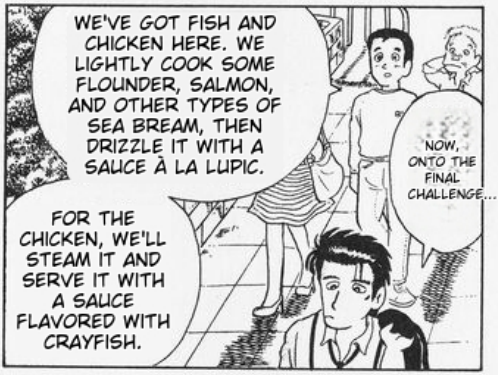
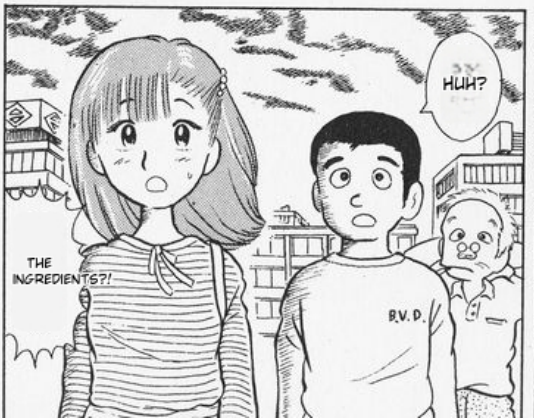
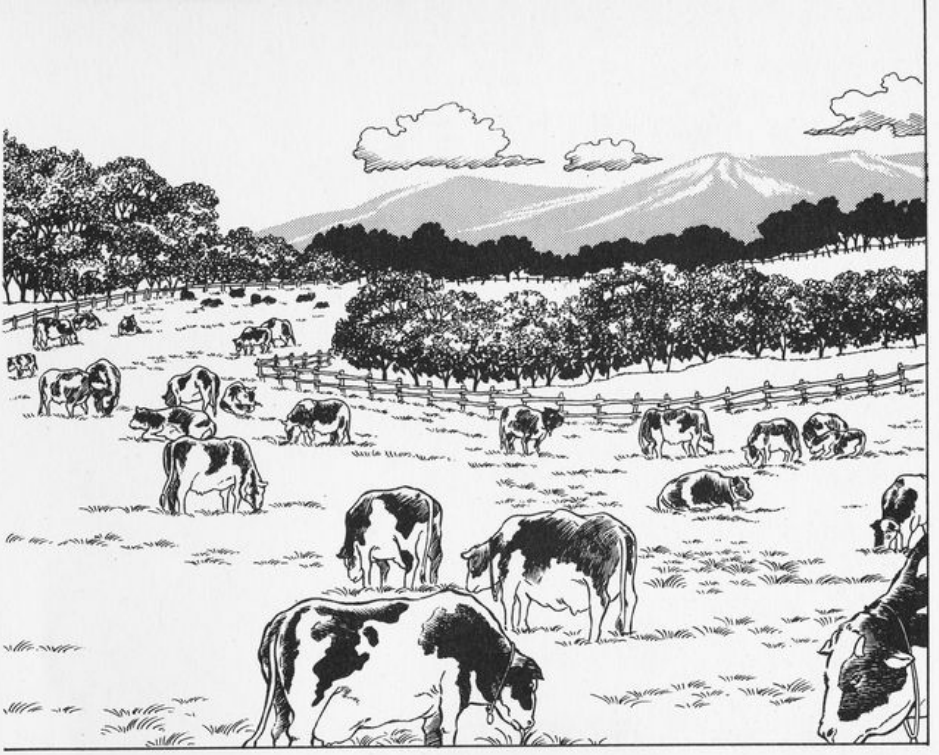
IF WE FAIL IN THE FINAL JUDGING, IT'LL BE OUR FAULT...
...IT SEEMS LIKE WE REALLY WOUNDED LUPIC'S PRIDE WITH THAT BEEF INCIDENT...

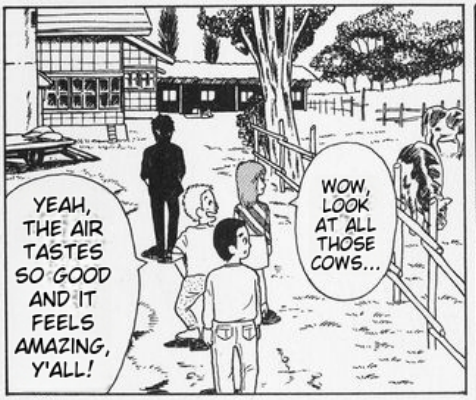
AND THIS TIME, WE'LL BE JUDGED NOT ONLY ON HOW WE HANDLE THE INGREDIENTS, BUT ALSO ON HOW GOOD OF INGREDIENTS WE CAN PROCURE.
.....
B.V.D.

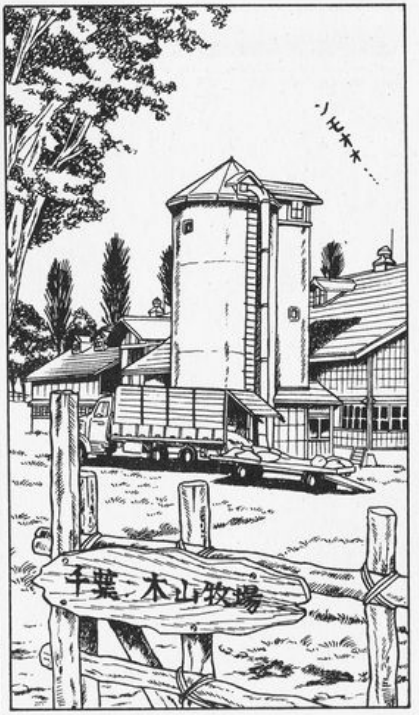

WE'VE GOT FISH AND CHICKEN HERE. WE LIGHTLY COOK SOME FLOUNDER, SALMON, AND OTHER TYPES OF SEA BREAM, THEN DRIZZLE IT WITH A SAUCE À LA LUPIC.
FOR THE CHICKEN, WE'LL STEAM IT AND SERVE IT WITH A SAUCE FLAVORED WITH CRAYFISH.
NOW, ONTO THE FINAL CHALLENGE...


HUH?
THE INGREDIENTS?!
B.V.D.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO BUY THE INGREDIENTS TOMORROW.




WOW, LOOK AT ALL THOSE COWS...
YEAH, THE AIR TASTES SO GOOD AND IT FEELS AMAZING, Y'ALL!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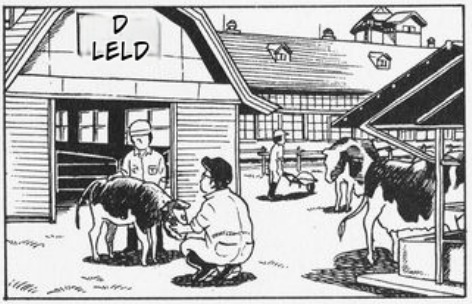
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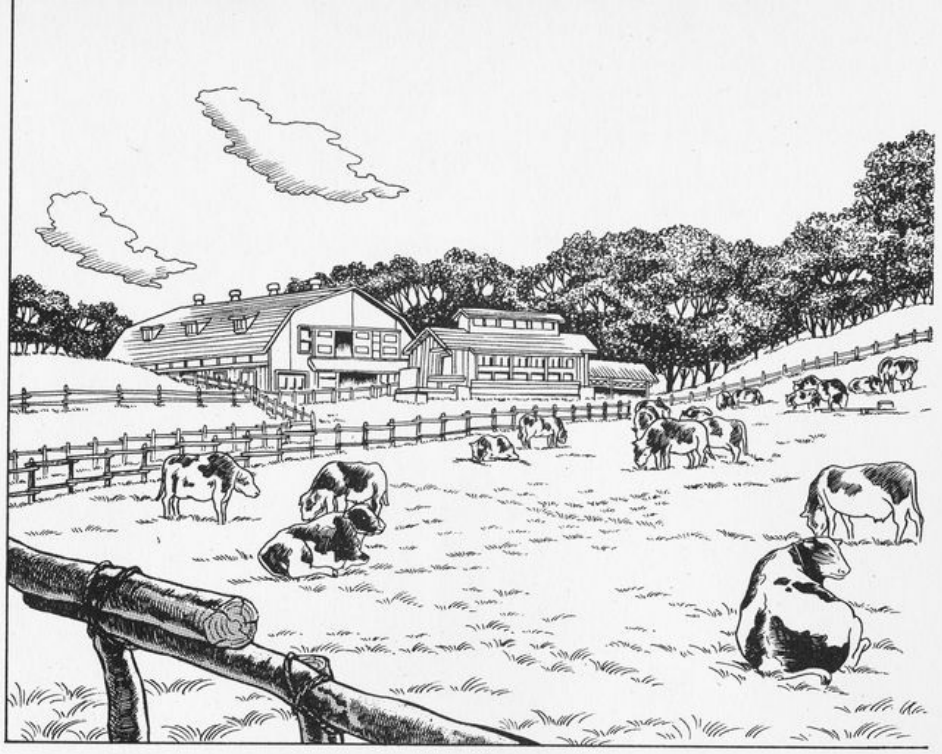
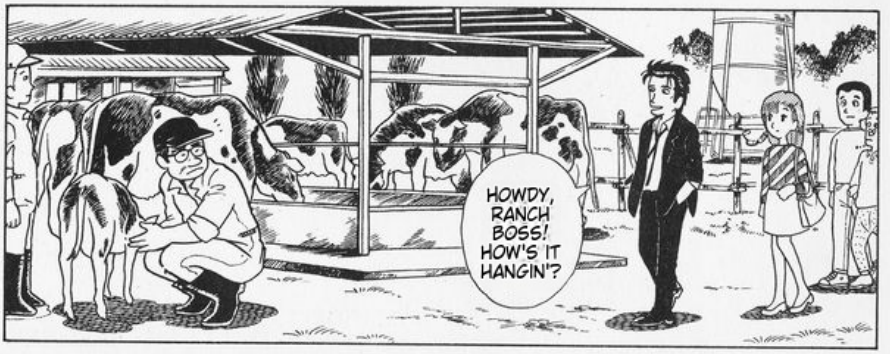
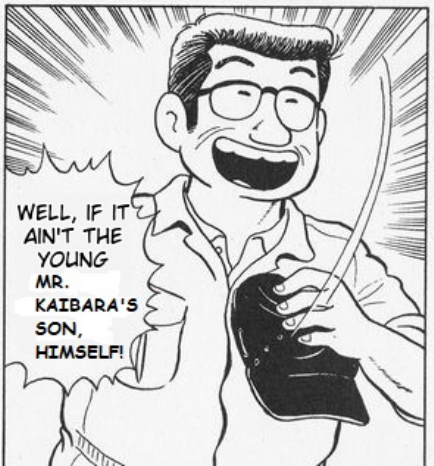
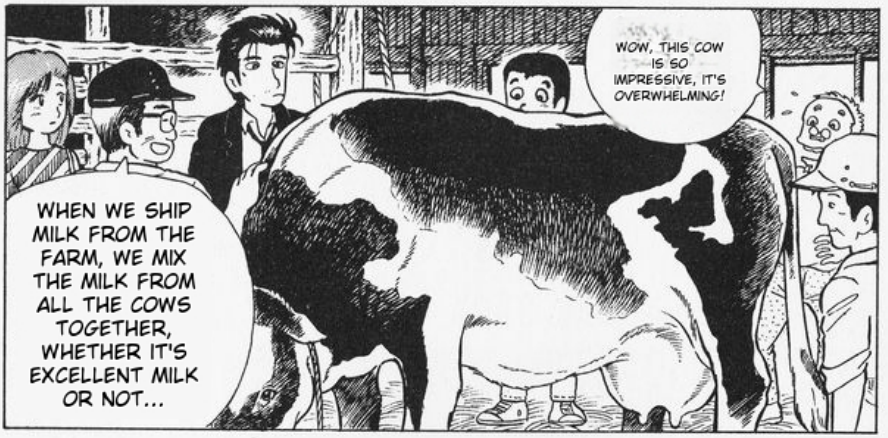



HOWDY, RANCH BOSS! HOW'S IT HANGIN'?

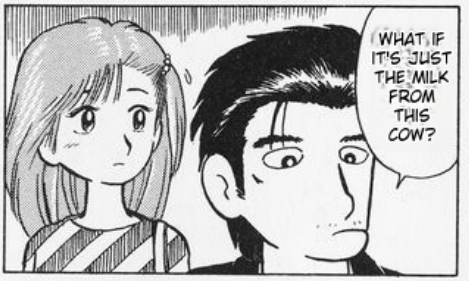

WELL, IF IT AIN'T THE YOUNG MR. KAIBARA'S SON, HIMSELF!

MR. YAMAOKA, YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING, AREN'T YOU?!
HERE WE GO AGAIN! MR. KYOGOKU SAID SOMETHING SIMILAR DURING THE MEETING...

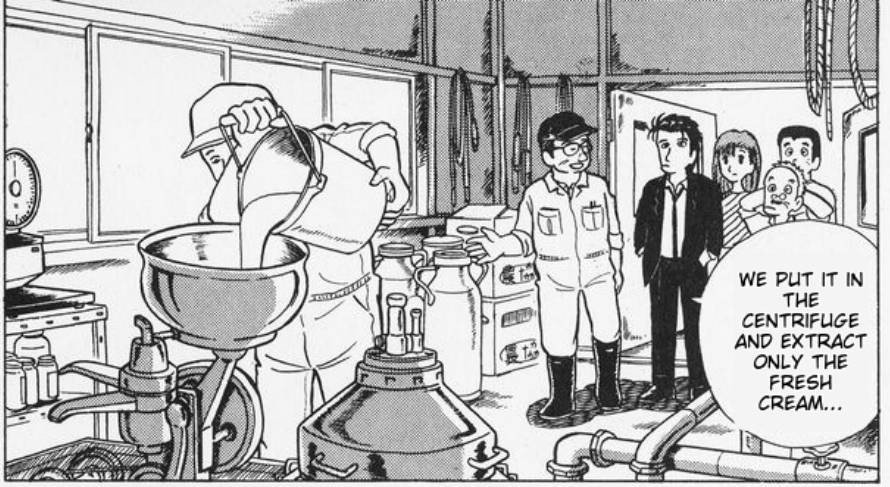
I DON'T KNOW ANY KAIBARA! IT'S YAMAOKA!
UH...YEAH, LONG TIME NO SEE, SORRY ABOUT THAT.

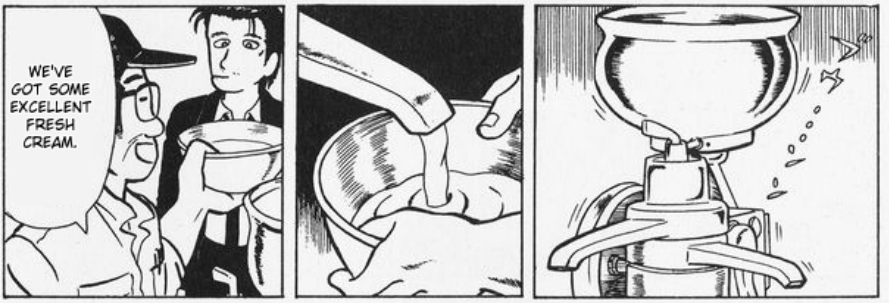

WOW, THIS COW IS SO IMPRESSIVE, IT'S OVERWHELMING!
WHEN WE SHIP MILK FROM THE FARM, WE MIX THE MILK FROM ALL THE COWS TOGETHER, WHETHER IT'S EXCELLENT MILK OR NOT...

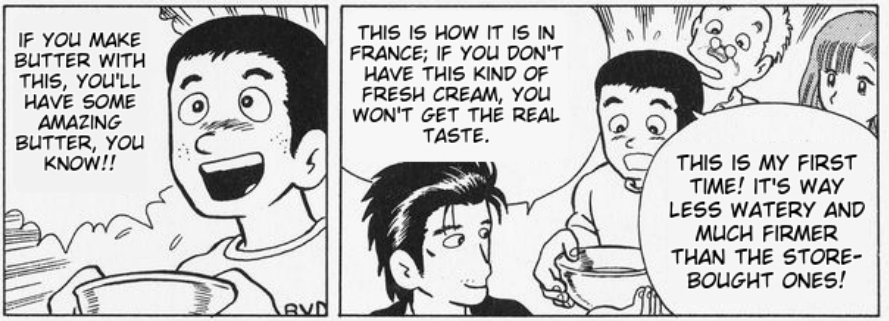
THIS COW IS A GRAND PRIZE WINNER NO MATTER WHERE YOU TAKE IT IN THE WORLD!


WHAT IF IT'S JUST THE MILK FROM THIS COW?

ALL RIGHT, GIVE ME THE MILK FROM THIS COW. ONCE IT'S SQUEEZED, I WANT YOU TO MAKE FRESH CREAM AND BUTTER RIGHT HERE ON THE SPOT.
GOT IT, YOU COW...


WE PUT IT IN THE CENTRIFUGE AND EXTRACT ONLY THE FRESH CREAM...


WE'VE GOT SOME EXCELLENT FRESH CREAM.


IF YOU MAKE BUTTER WITH THIS, YOU'LL HAVE SOME AMAZING BUTTER, YOU KNOW!!
THIS IS HOW IT IS IN FRANCE; IF YOU DON'T HAVE THIS KIND OF FRESH CREAM, YOU WON'T GET THE REAL TASTE.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME! IT'S WAY LESS WATERY AND MUCH FIRMER THAN THE STORE-BOUGHT ONES!

LEAVE A LITTLE BIT OF FRESH CREAM, AND TURN THE REST INTO BUTTER FOR ME.
YES, RIGHT AWAY.
NO MATTER HOW GOOD THE OTHER INGREDIENTS ARE, IF THE BUTTER AND FRESH CREAM ARE NO GOOD, THEN EVERYTHING'S NO GOOD.
THE FOUNDATION OF FRENCH CUISINE IS BUTTER AND FRESH CREAM.

GIVE IT YOUR ALL, ALRIGHT?
SERIOUSLY, THANK YOU SO FREAKING MUCH.
I OWE YOU ONE, PAL.
NO WAY, YOUNG... NO, MR. YAMAOKA, FEEL FREE TO CALL ON ME ANYTIME!
I'LL COME BACK AGAIN!
.....

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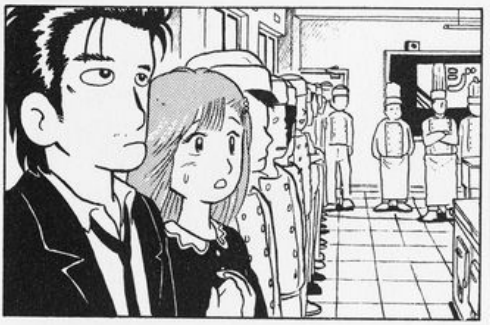
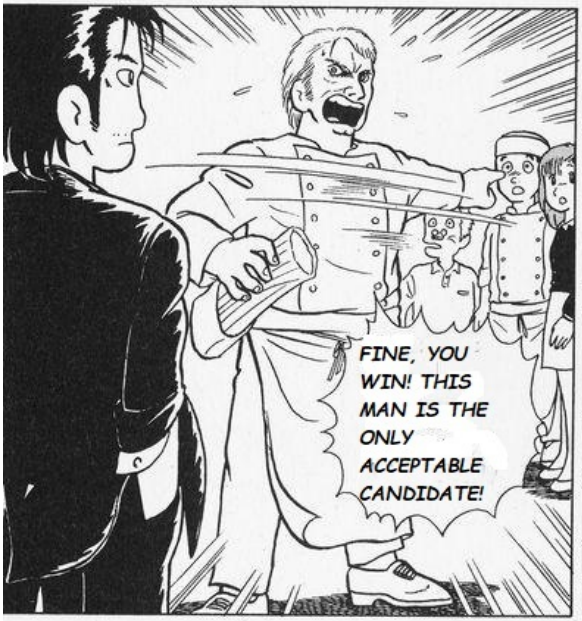


There is no one here who is qualified to study cooking in Paris!
FRENCH CUISINE IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU JAPANESE!
Cette sauce non plus n'a pas de goût....
This is also a sauce that has no taste at all.
OH NO!
PLEASE DON'T FAIL...
!

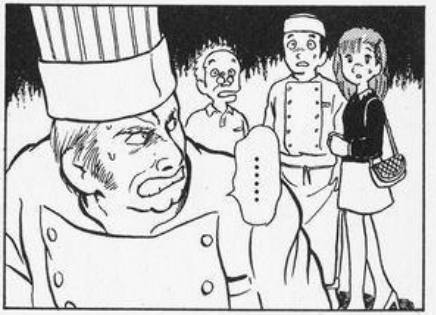
HOW CAN THIS BE?! THIS SAUCE IS AMAZING!

OH, I SEE! IT'S HIM!
HOW COULD THIS BOY HAVE EVEN KNOWN OF SUCH A BUTTER?!
MY GOD! THIS BUTTER IS SO FRESH AND CREAMY! IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN WHAT YOU GET IN FRANCE!
(木下牧場)

NO, IT'S HIS.
YOU! THAT BUTTER IS YOUR DOING, ISN'T IT?!


FINE, YOU WIN! THIS MAN IS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATE!

WHO THE HELL IS THIS GUY?!
GRR! WHAT AN ANNOYING MAN!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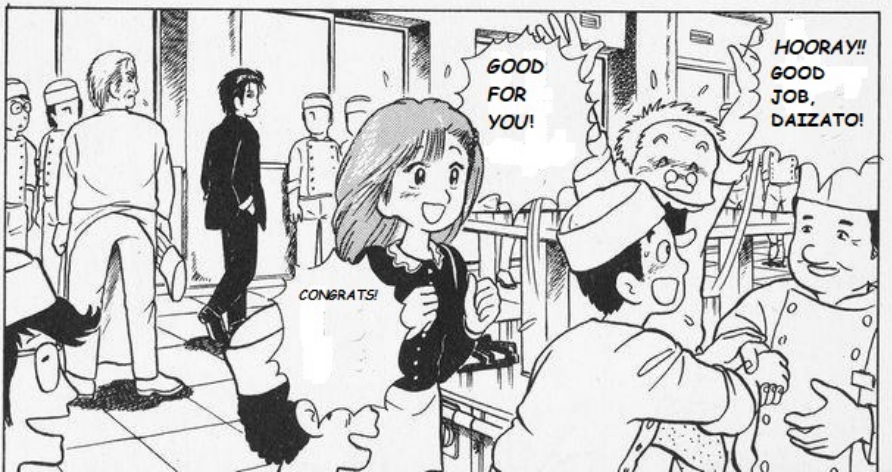
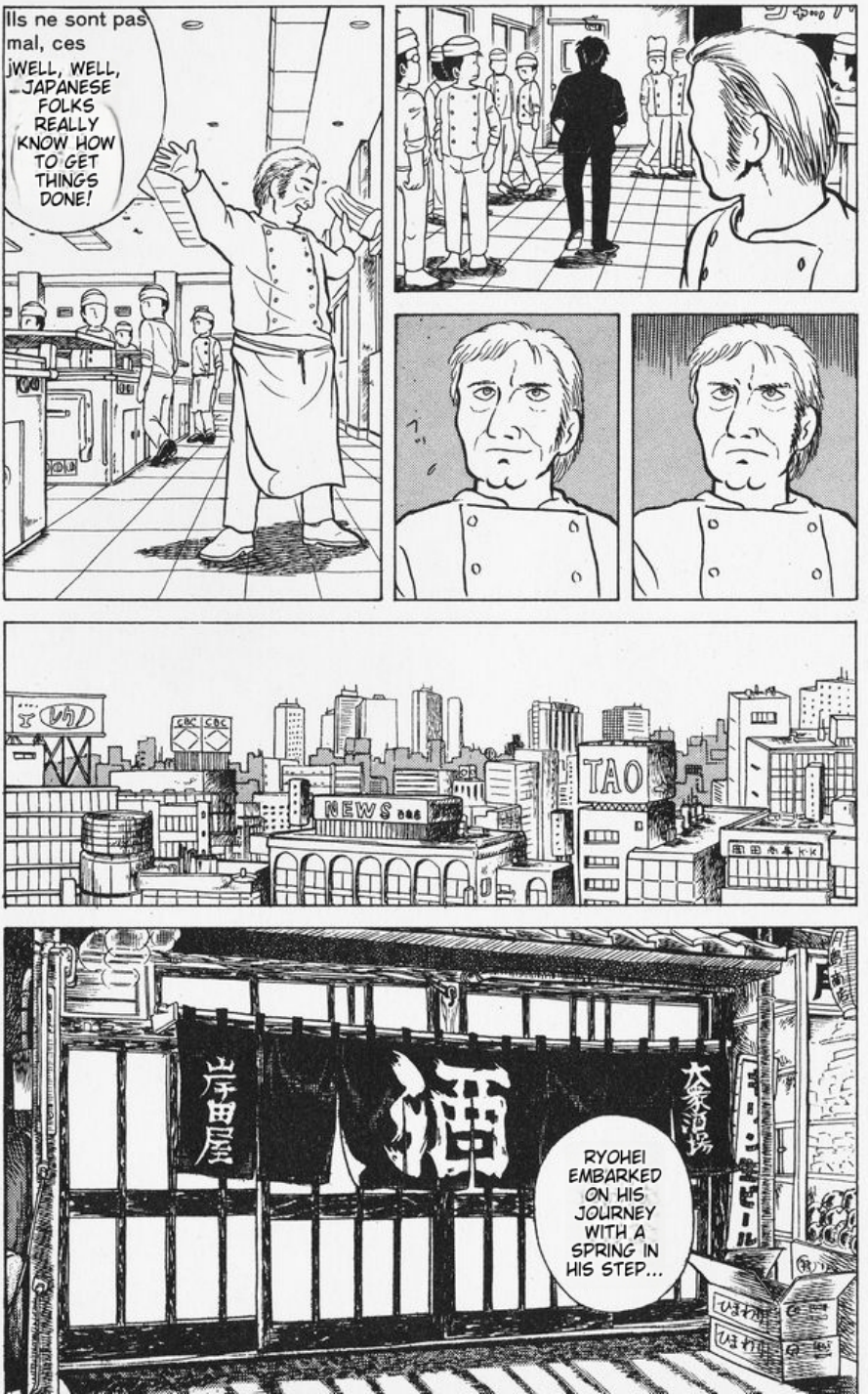
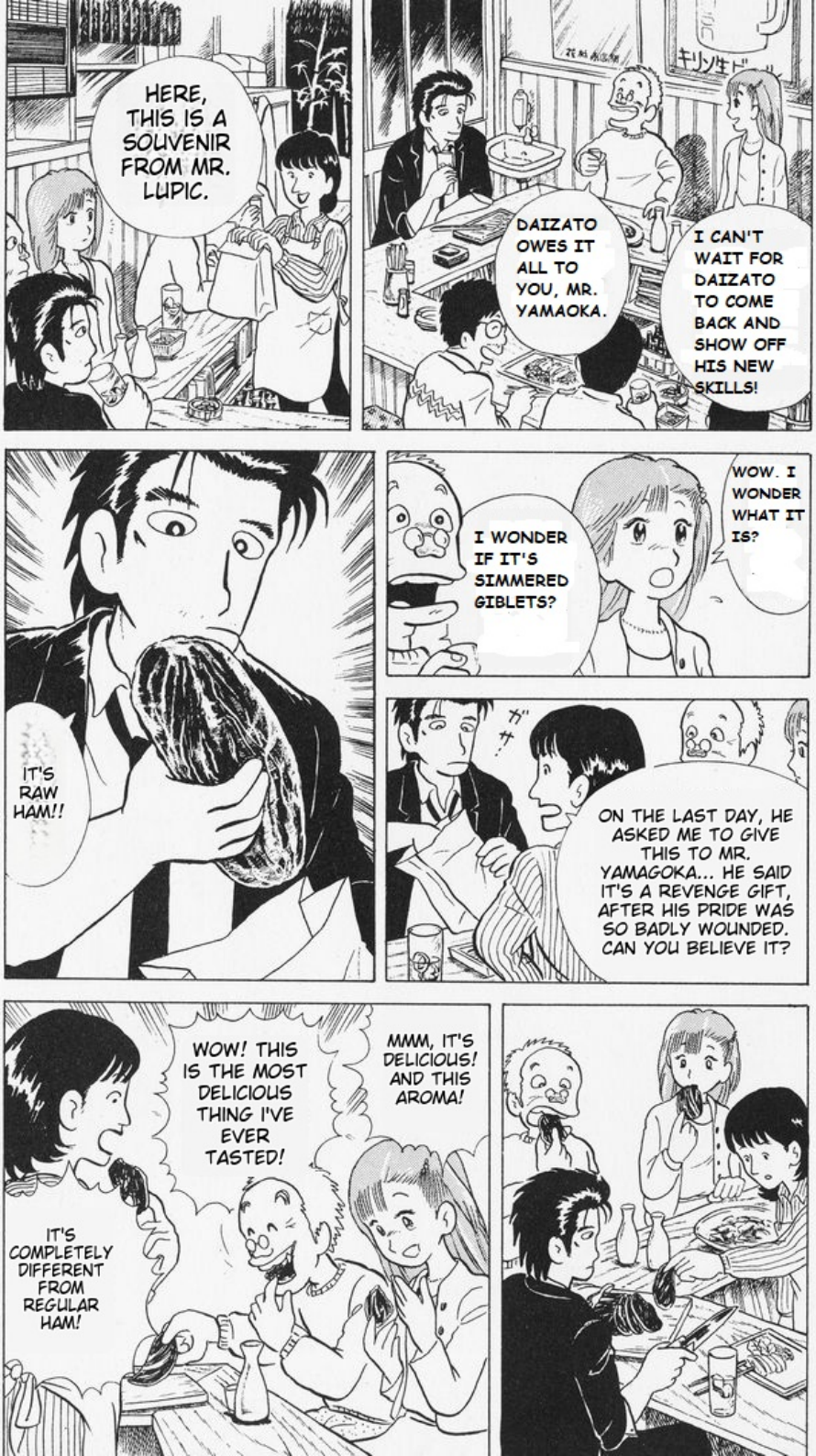
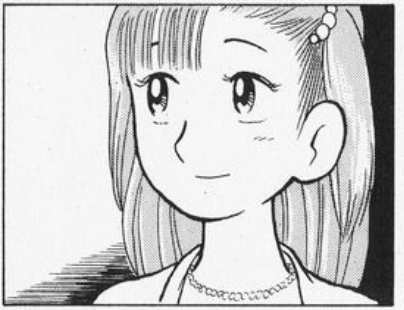

CONGRATS!
GOOD FOR YOU!
HOORAY!! GOOD JOB, DAIZATO!


Ils ne sont pas mal, ces
WELL, WELL, JAPANESE FOLKS REALLY KNOW HOW TO GET THINGS DONE!
NEWS
TAO
酒
RYOHEI EMBARKED ON HIS JOURNEY WITH A SPRING IN HIS STEP...


HERE, THIS IS A SOUVENIR FROM MR. LUPIC.
DAIZATO OWES IT ALL TO YOU, MR. YAMAOKA.
I CAN'T WAIT FOR DAIZATO TO COME BACK AND SHOW OFF HIS NEW SKILLS!
IT'S RAW HAM!!
I WONDER IF IT'S SIMMERED GIBLETS?
WOW. I WONDER WHAT IT IS?
ON THE LAST DAY, HE ASKED ME TO GIVE THIS TO MR. YAMAGOKA... HE SAID IT'S A REVENGE GIFT, AFTER HIS PRIDE WAS SO BADLY WOUNDED. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM REGULAR HAM!
WOW! THIS IS THE MOST DELICIOUS THING I'VE EVER TASTED!
MMM, IT'S DELICIOUS! AND THIS AROMA!

I SUPPOSE WHEN IT COMES TO ENJOYING MEAT, JAPAN AND FRANCE LEAVE THE REST OF THE WORLD IN THE DUST.



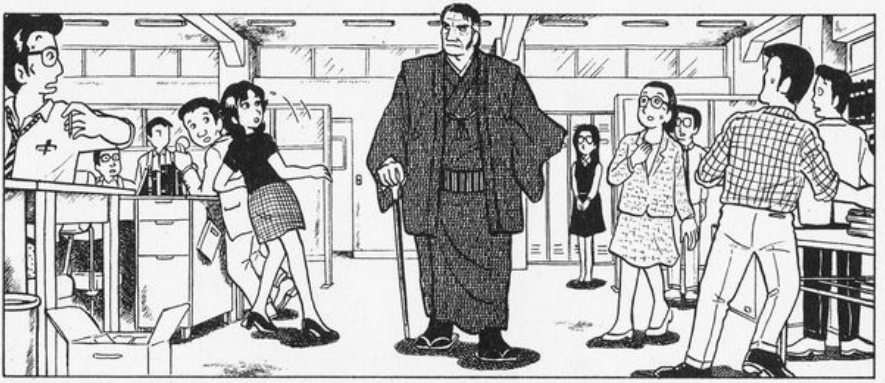
SPEAKING OF WHICH, A TOAST TO MR. JACQUES LEPIC AND HIS FINE HAM.

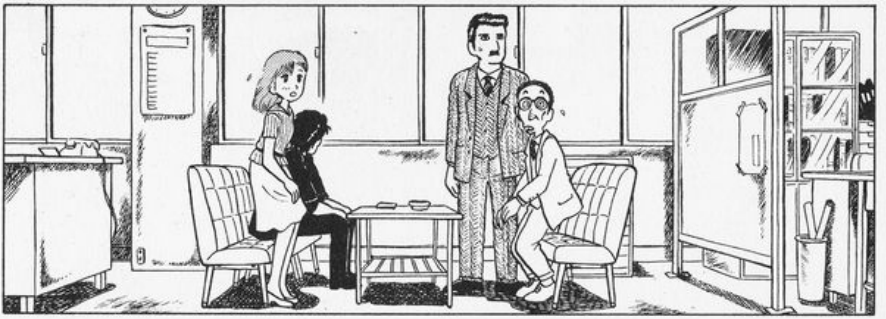
第6話
油の音
東西新聞社

IS MR. OHARA HERE?
WHICH DEPARTMENT DO YOU BELONG TO?
WELL, THEN... INTRODUCE ME TO SHIRO YAMAOKA'S BOSS!
MR. OHARA! THE CEO!
OUR CEO IS CURRENTLY ON A BUSINESS TRIP OVERSEAS, BUT...
U-UH, SORRY!
文化部
昭和の歴史
全10巻
京洛おじの美味

WHY ON EARTH DO YOU INSIST ON HATING THE JOB OF CREATING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'...
辞職願
HE'S PROBABLY JUST DOZING OFF OR BETTING ON HORSE RACES.
JUST FIRE HIM ALREADY!
AND YET, I MYSELF CAN'T HELP BUT BE DISGUSTED, UNABLE TO LET GO OF MY OBSESSION WITH THE TASTE OF FOOD...
IT MAKES ME SICK TO MY STOMACH WHEN I SEE SOMEONE MAKE SUCH A BIG DEAL ABOUT THE TASTE OF FOOD...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, EITHER. YOU HAVE SUCH A GREAT PALATE THAT PUTS EVEN CHEFS TO SHAME!
I KNOW THE WORST KIND OF GUY, YOU SEE.
WHY?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUR PROBLEM WITH THE ULTIMATE MENU IS! WHY DO YOU HATE IT SO MUCH?!!!!

THAT GUY WAS RIDICULOUSLY OBSESSED WITH THE TASTE OF FOOD, TO THE POINT WHERE HE MADE EVERYONE AROUND HIM MISERABLE...
I DON'T WANT TO BECOME THAT KIND OF PERSON!
BOSS TANIMURA, MR. KAIBARA, HAS ARRIVED.
.....
WHO ON EARTH ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT...
KYOTO'S MR. KYOGOKU AND RANCH MANAGER-SAN MENTIONED THAT NAME!
DID THEY SAY MR. KAIBARA?!
MR. KAIBARA?!





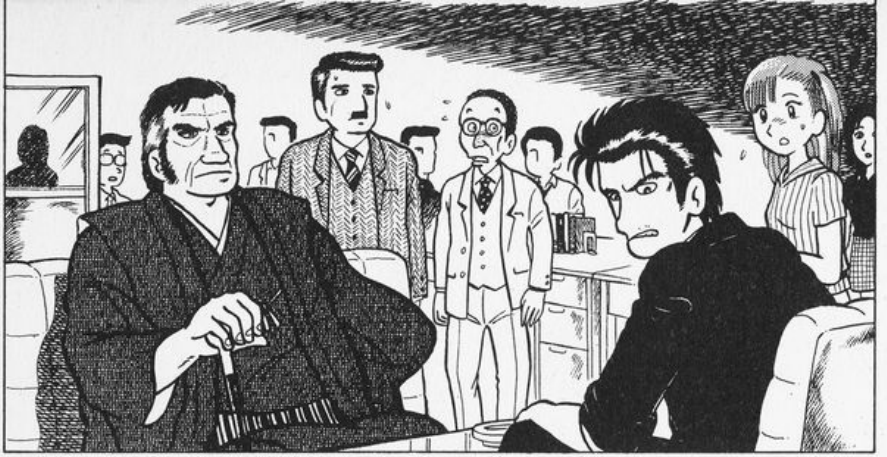
HEY, YOU, SHOW ME THE WAY TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM.
WELL, WELL, IT'S AN HONOR TO HAVE MR. KAIBARA PAY US A VISIT.
NO, NO, THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH!

IS THAT GUY?...
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...

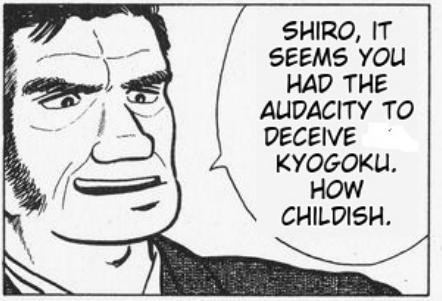
I HEARD FROM MR. KYOGOKU IN KYOTO THAT MY SON MIGHT HAVE SNEAKED INTO THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER COMPANY.
I JUST DROPPED BY TO CHECK WHILE I WAS OUT, AND IT SEEMS LIKE I WASN'T WRONG... MY SON WAS THERE!

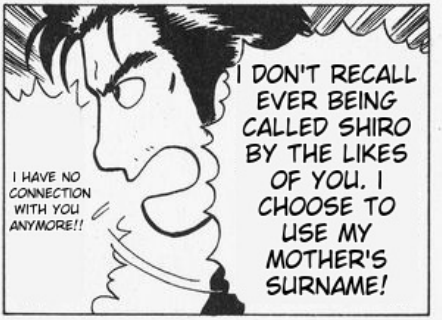
SO THIS GUY IS YOUR FATHER, YAMAOKA?

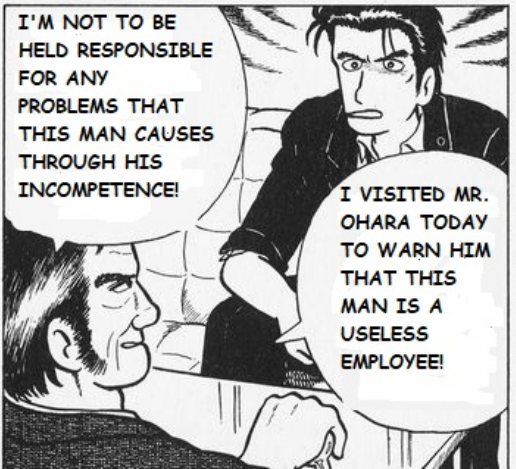
I KNEW IT! EVEN THOUGH YAMAOKA DENIED IT! MR. KAIBARA IS HIS FATHER!!!



YOU BETTER KICK THIS GUY OUT OF THE COMPANY PRONTO, HE'S BOUND TO CAUSE HARM SOONER OR LATER.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. OUR TIES WERE CUT LONG AGO...


SHIRO, IT SEEMS YOU HAD THE AUDACITY TO DECEIVE KYOGOKU. HOW CHILDISH.


I HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH YOU ANYMORE!!
I DON'T RECALL EVER BEING CALLED SHIRO BY THE LIKES OF YOU. I CHOOSE TO USE MY MOTHER'S SURNAME!


I'M NOT TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY PROBLEMS THAT THIS MAN CAUSES THROUGH HIS INCOMPETENCE!
I VISITED MR. OHARA TODAY TO WARN HIM THAT THIS MAN IS A USELESS EMPLOYEE!

WHAT... DO YOU MEAN, HARM TO OUR COMPANY?

KAIBARA-SAN!
WHAT THE HECK!?
THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' CREATION?
THAT'S RIGHT! HE HAS AN EXTRAORDINARY AND SHARP TASTE THAT SETS HIM APART FROM THE REST. THIS JOB SIMPLY CANNOT BE DONE WITHOUT YAMAOKA-KUN.
KICKING YAMAOKA-KUN OUT OF OUR COMPANY? THAT'S ABSOLUTELY OUTRAGEOUS!
WELL, WE'VE ENTRUSTED HIM WITH THE COLOSSAL TASK OF CREATING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AS ONE OF OUR COMPANY'S FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY PROJECTS, YOU SEE.
YOU'RE SAYING SHIRO HAS A SHARP TASTE?!

WELL, THIS IS JUST HILARIOUS! THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER ISN'T ALL THAT GREAT, AFTER ALL! WAHAHAHA!
WAHAHAHA! HAHAHA!

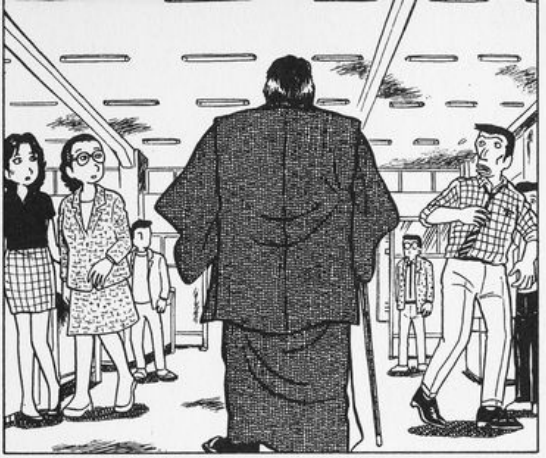
SHIRO, WHAT DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

WHAT DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND, HUH?

YAMAOKA-KUN IS A MAN WHO CAN PULL OFF CREATING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'.
WE HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY CONVINCED OF YAMAOKA-KUN'S IMPECCABLE PALATE.
HEH HEH, YOU THINK THIS GUY KNOWS A THING OR TWO ABOUT TASTE, HUH?

WELL THEN, CAN YOU TASTE THE FLAVOR OF HEAVEN'S PLATTER?

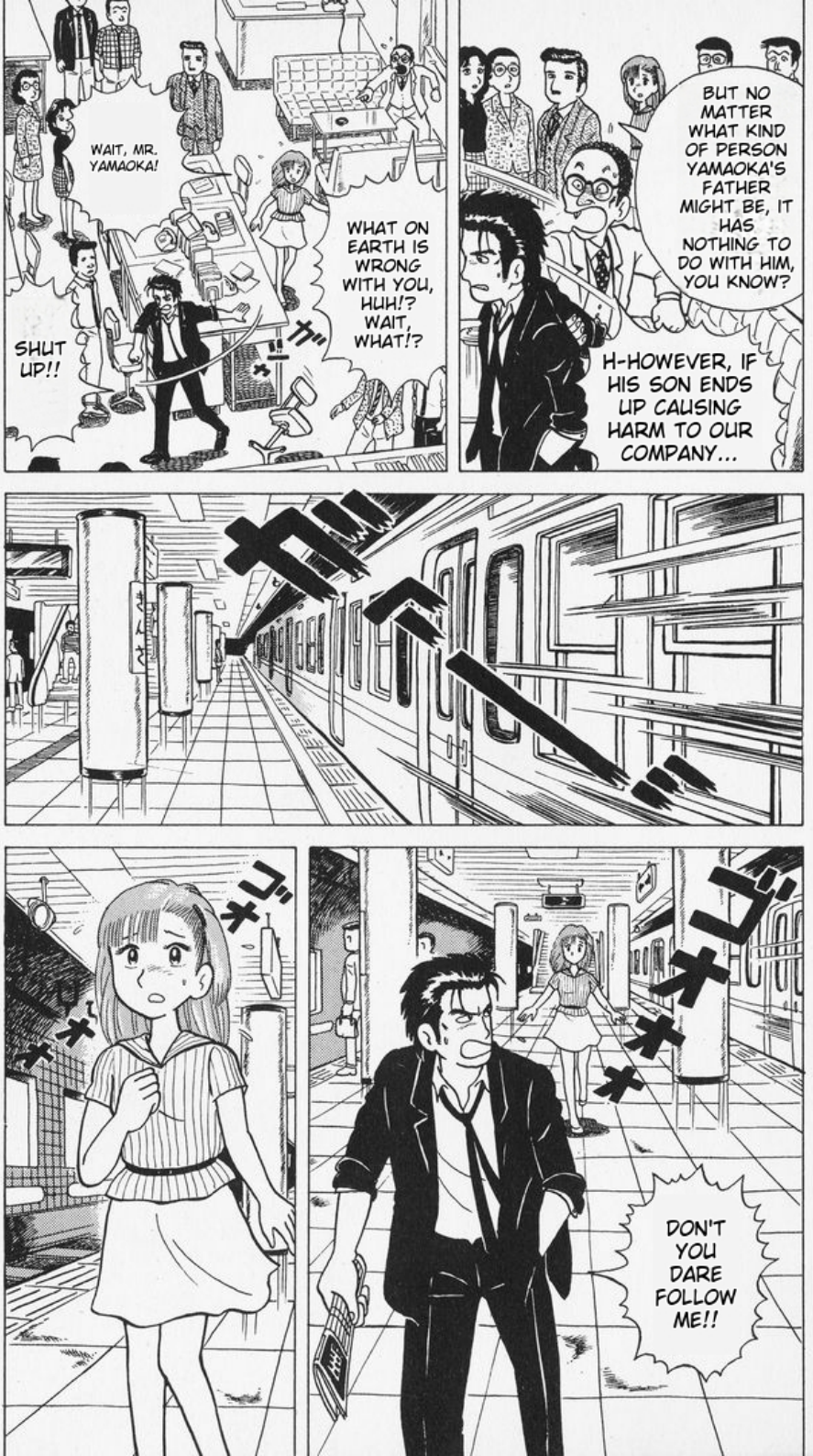
LET'S PUT THIS MAN'S TASTE BUDS TO THE ULTIMATE TEST!
ALRIGHT, FIND A SUITABLE TEMPURA SHOP AND RENT THE WHOLE PLACE!
CAN YOU GATHER A FEW SKILLED TEMPURA CRAFTSMEN BY TOMORROW?
I CAN BRING SOMEONE FROM OUR TOKYO BRANCH, IF YOU'D LIKE...
YAMAOKA'S TASTE BUDS!?
WELL, ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?
I'LL TAKE YOU ON! I'LL CRUSH YOUR ARROGANCE INTO TINY LITTLE PIECES!



SEE YOU TOMORROW NIGHT THEN.
UNDERSTOOD.

HE KNOWS ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING, DOESN'T HE!?
BOSS! IS IT TRUE THAT YAMAOKA'S FATHER IS NONE OTHER THAN THE LEGENDARY PAINTER, POTTER, AND EPICUREAN, KAIBARA YUZAN?!!!

THAT'S RIGHT! KAIBARA THE MASTER OF THE ARTS AND CONNOISSEUR OF FINE CUISINE, IS INDEED YAMAOKA'S FATHER.


WAIT, MR. YAMAOKA!
SHUT UP!!
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WHAT ON EARTH IS WRONG WITH YOU, HUH!? WAIT, WHAT!?
H-HOWEVER, IF HIS SON ENDS UP CAUSING HARM TO OUR COMPANY...
BUT NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF PERSON YAMAOKA'S FATHER MIGHT BE, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM, YOU KNOW?
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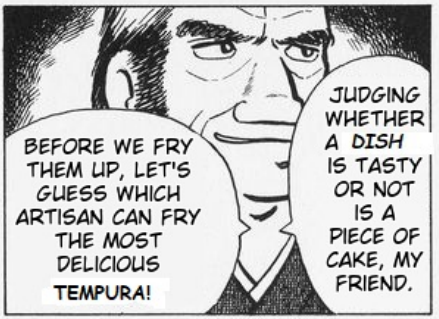
DON'T YOU DARE FOLLOW ME!!

ガァー
AND THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT UNHAPPINESS TO MY FAMILY!!
YOU'RE OBSESSING OVER THE TASTE OF FOOD TO A RIDICULOUS EXTENT,
ガガァ
WHY DO PARENTS AND CHILDREN HAVE TO HATE EACH OTHER?
GO BACK!!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
YOUR FAMILY!?
I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE!!

HE'S A GUY WHO DESPISES, BUT JUST CAN'T DESPISE ENOUGH...

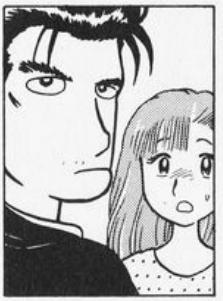
YAMAOKA-SAN...

172-315
YOSHIMATSU

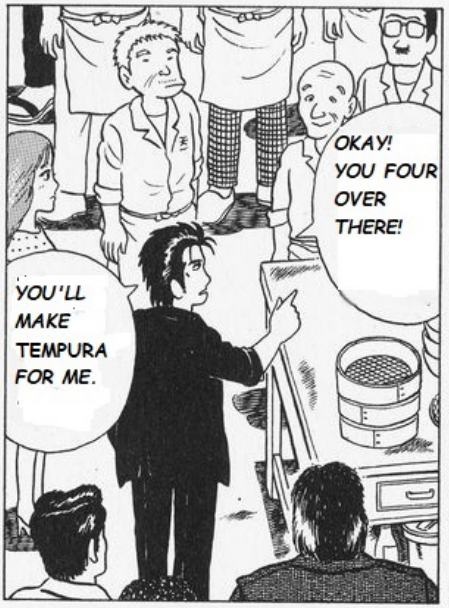

BEFORE WE FRY THEM UP, LET'S GUESS WHICH ARTISAN CAN FRY THE MOST DELICIOUS TEMPURA!
JUDGING WHETHER A DISH IS TASTY OR NOT IS A PIECE OF CAKE, MY FRIEND.

KAIBARA-SAN, YAMAOKA-KUN, I'VE GATHERED A GROUP OF TALENTED TEMPURA ARTISANS WHO HAVE NO PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE.
ALRIGHT THEN.

WELL, FIRST, YOU NEED TO CAREFULLY EXAMINE THE ARTISANS YOURSELF.



BEFORE WE FRY THEM UP!?
CAN WE REALLY DO THAT?


OKAY! YOU FOUR OVER THERE!
YOU'LL MAKE TEMPURA FOR ME.

SHOW ME YOUR HANDS AND OPEN YOUR MOUTH, LET ME SEE THOSE PEARLY WHITES!

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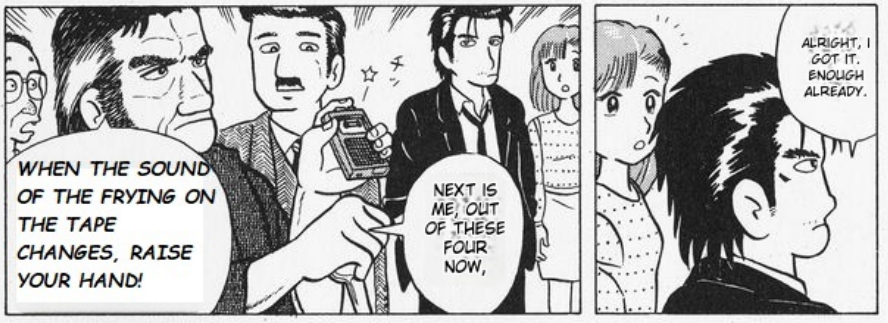
THEY'RE ADDING EVEN MORE ICE TO THE COLD WATER.
THAT PERSON WITH THE SILVER HAIR, THEY GET EGGS FROM THE FRIDGE AND FLOUR FROM THE FREEZER...

THE PERSON NEXT TO ME JUST PULLED OUT EGGS, FLOUR, AND WATER FROM THE FRIDGE...
THAT PERSON, IS USING EGGS AND FLOUR FROM THE COUNTERTOP!

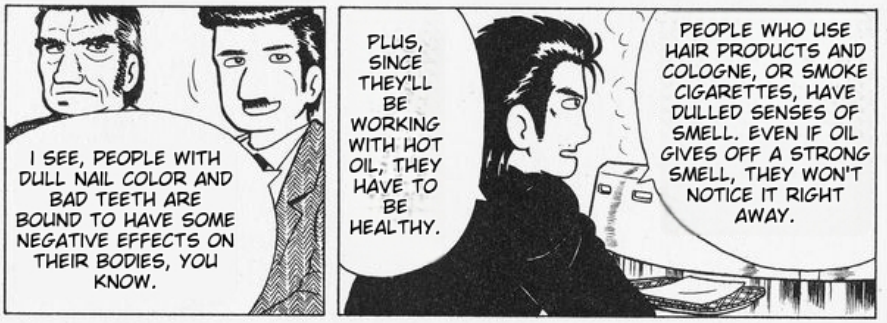
THAT OLD MAN NEXT TO HIM IS DOING THE SAME THING AS THE GUY WITH WHITE HAIR...
BUT HE IS STIRRING IT A BIT FASTER...


WHEN THE SOUND OF THE FRYING ON THE TAPE CHANGES, RAISE YOUR HAND!
NEXT IS ME, OUT OF THESE FOUR NOW,
ALRIGHT, I GOT IT. ENOUGH ALREADY.

NOW I GET IT! SO, WHO SHOULD WE CHOOSE FROM THIS GROUP?
?

I CHOOSE THIS MAN!
VERY WELL! NOW THESE TWO SHALL EACH FRY SOME TEMPURA!
IT'S THIS GUY!

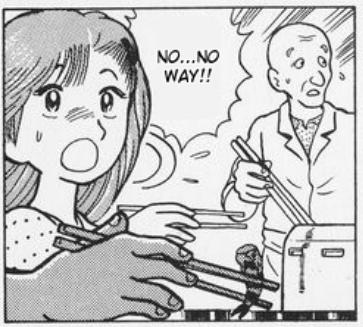
YAMAOKA-KUN, WHAT'S YOUR BASIS FOR CHOOSING THIS GUY?

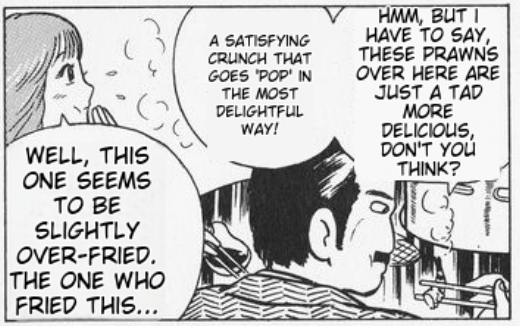

I SEE, PEOPLE WITH DULL NAIL COLOR AND BAD TEETH ARE BOUND TO HAVE SOME NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THEIR BODIES, YOU KNOW.
PLUS, SINCE THEY'LL BE WORKING WITH HOT OIL, THEY HAVE TO BE HEALTHY.
PEOPLE WHO USE HAIR PRODUCTS AND COLOGNE, OR SMOKE CIGARETTES, HAVE DULLED SENSES OF SMELL. EVEN IF OIL GIVES OFF A STRONG SMELL, THEY WON'T NOTICE IT RIGHT AWAY.

BOTH OF THEM PUT ICE IN COLD WATER AND USED THE POWDER FROM THE FREEZER, BUT THIS GUY HAD A SLIGHT EDGE IN STIRRING SPEED.
AND WHEN MIXING, THE CLOTHES SHOULD BE AS COLD AS POSSIBLE AND NOT TOO STICKY. DON'T OVERDO IT.

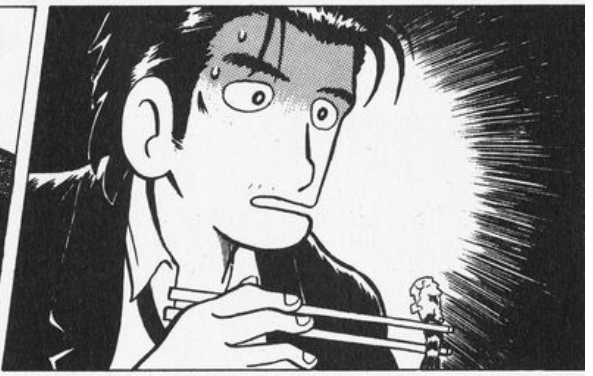
.....
YEAH, WHEN SHIROU HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE TWO, HE MISSED SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
KAIBARA-SAN CHOSE SOMEONE DIFFERENT IN THE END... IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF THAT TAPE FROM EARLIER, RIGHT?

MMM! OH MY, IT'S SO TASTY! I CAN'T EVEN DECIDE WHICH ONE IS BETTER.


NO...NO WAY!!


WELL, THIS ONE SEEMS TO BE SLIGHTLY OVER-FRIED. THE ONE WHO FRIED THIS...
A SATISFYING CRUNCH THAT GOES 'POP' IN THE MOST DELIGHTFUL WAY!
HMM, BUT I HAVE TO SAY, THESE PRAWNS OVER HERE ARE JUST A TAD MORE DELICIOUS, DON'T YOU THINK?

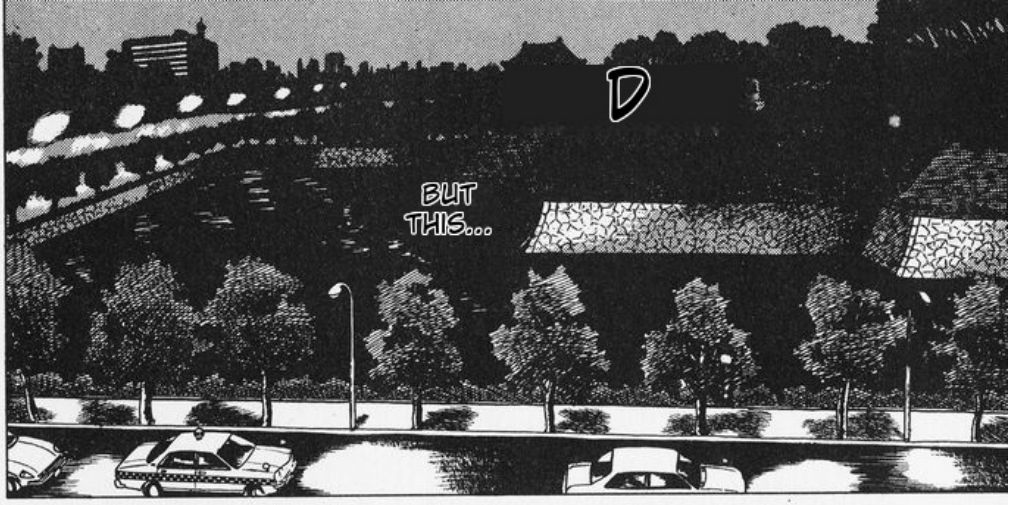
IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE REACHED A CONSENSUS ON WHICH ARTISAN FRIED THE BEST TEMPURA.



A SKILLFUL ARTISAN DETERMINES THE PERFECT FRYING TIME THROUGH THE CHANGE IN SOUND, UNCONSCIOUSLY!
AS THE BUBBLES THAT ENVELOP THE SEED GRADUALLY SHRINK, THE SOUND OF THEM BURSTING GROWS HIGHER AND HIGHER...
TEMPURA FRYING IS AN INCREDIBLY SOPHISTICATED TECHNIQUE THAT UTILIZES ALL FIVE SENSES OF A HUMAN. EYES ARE IMPORTANT, BUT SO ARE EARS!

NOW YOU UNDERSTAND JUST HOW INCOMPETENT THAT MAN IS, RIGHT?
IT SEEMS THAT THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER MANAGED TO AVOID A MAJOR EMBARRASSMENT! BRAVO!

REMEMBER THIS WELL! COOKING IS SOMETHING HUMANS CREATE. IT'S HILARIOUS TO ACT LIKE A CONNOISSEUR WITHOUT EVEN TRYING TO MAKE SOMETHING TASTY, AS IF YOU KNOW WHICH ARTISAN CAN MAKE A MASTERPIECE!
YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, ATTEMPTING TO WRITE FOOD ARTICLES? WHAT A LAUGH!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BUT THIS...

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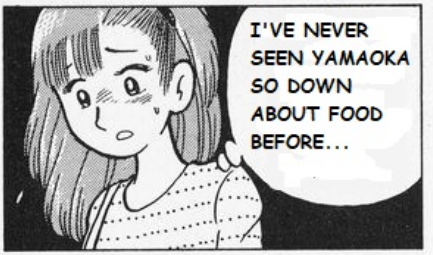
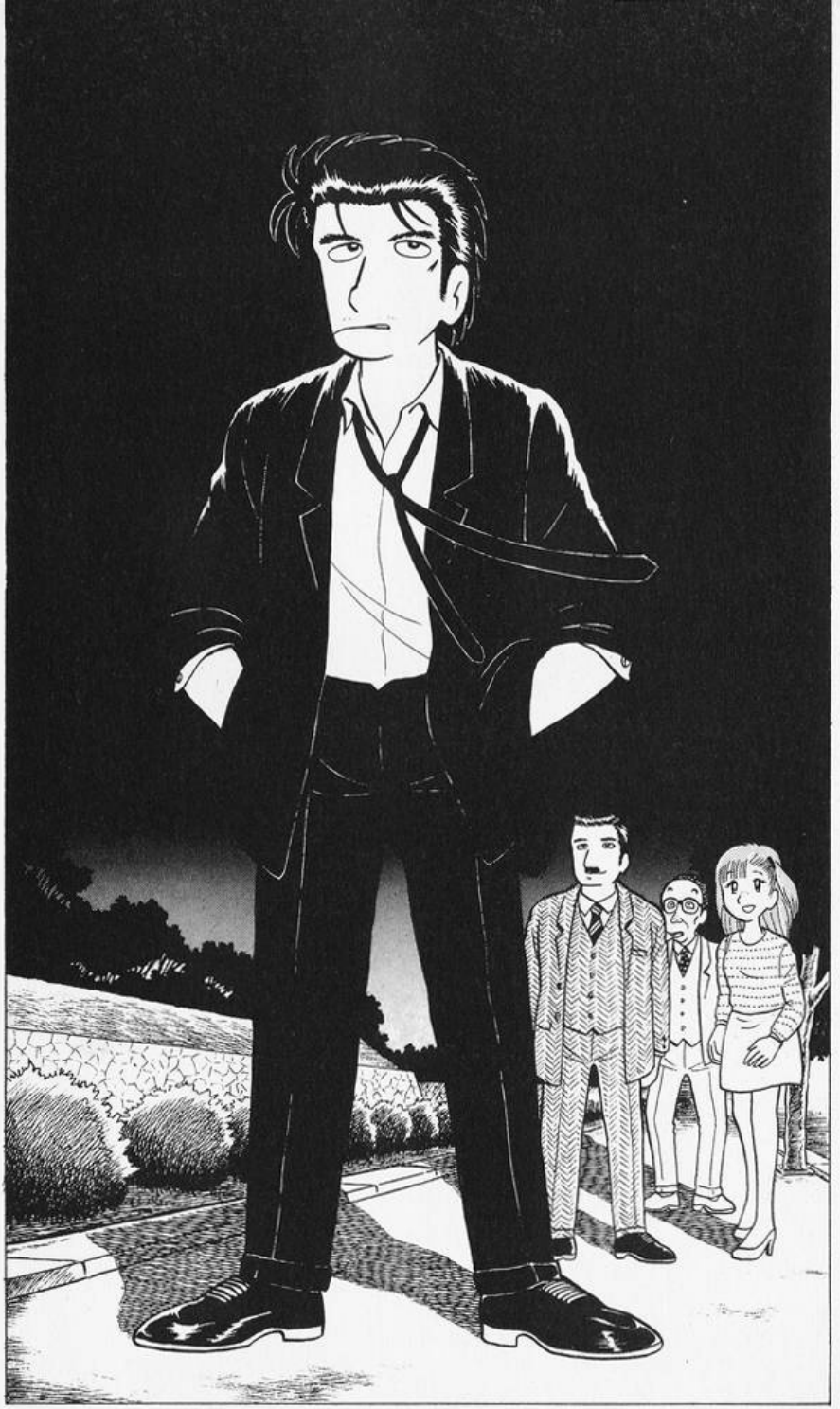

I'VE NEVER SEEN YAMAOKA SO DOWN ABOUT FOOD BEFORE...

BOSS... CAN I TAKE BACK MY RESIGNATION LETTER FROM THE OTHER DAY?
I SUDDENLY GOT THIS URGE TO TRY THAT JOB.
COME UP WITH THE ULTIMATE MENU THAT WILL BLOW KAIBARA YUZAN'S MIND!



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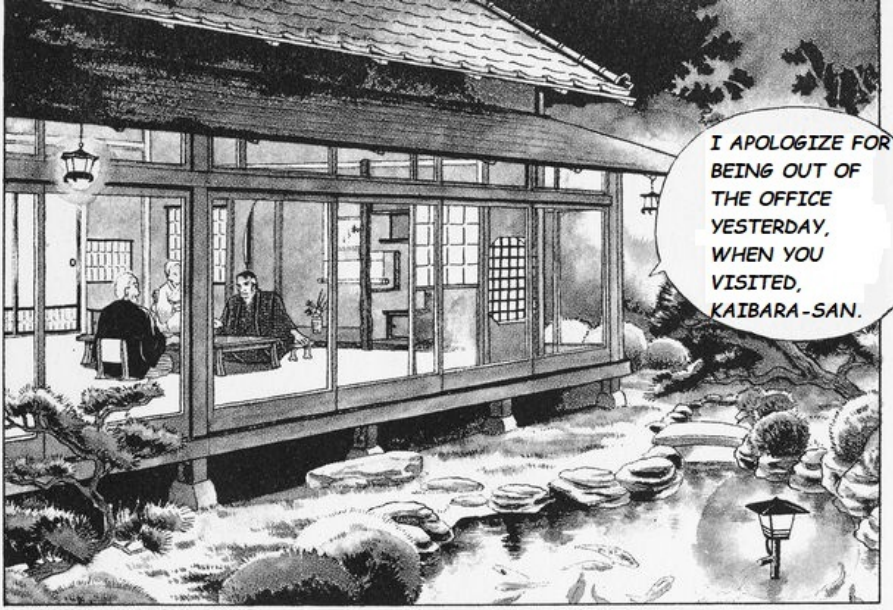
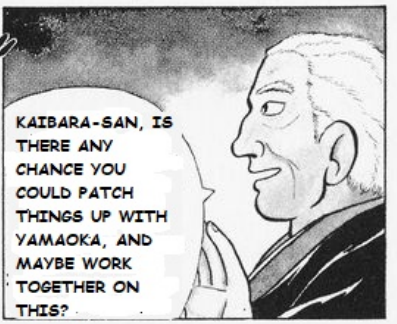

I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING OUT OF THE OFFICE YESTERDAY, WHEN YOU VISITED, KAIBARA-SAN.

OUR TANIMURA HERE WAS TOTALLY CLUELESS ABOUT YOUR SON'S BEEF WITH THAT YAMAOKA GUY, BUT NOW HE'S IN THE KNOW.
IF ONLY I HAD KNOWN WHERE THAT PUNK WAS HIDING SOONER, I WOULD'VE TOLD YOU TO KICK HIM TO THE CURB AGES AGO, I SWEAR...


KAIBARA-SAN, IS THERE ANY CHANCE YOU COULD PATCH THINGS UP WITH YAMAOKA, AND MAYBE WORK TOGETHER ON THIS?

KAIBARA-SAN, YOU ARE A FAMOUS ARTIST, BUT NOT ONLY THAT...
YOU ARE ALSO THE RENOWNED FOUNDER OF THE GOURMET CLUB. KAIBARA-SAN, I AM ASKING YOU TO GRANT US YOUR WISDOM AND EXPERTISE FOR THE ULTIMATE MENU. WITH IT, YAMAOKA WILL SURELY SUCCEED!
IT'S RIDICULOUS...
HUH?
SHIRO COULD NEVER HANDLE SUCH A HUGE TASK AS CREATING THE ULTIMATE MENU.
HE PROVED RIGHT BEFORE THE EYES OF YOUR DIRECTOR, MR. TANIMURA, THAT HE'S NOT ONLY LACKING A REFINED PALATE BUT ALSO A CLUELESS AND INCOMPETENT FOOL.
AND I WILL NEVER FORGIVE THAT MAN, EVEN IF HE DIES.
BEFORE THAT MAN RAN AWAY FROM HOME, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT HE DID TO ME?
WELL... WHAT DID HE DO?

YOU SMASHED KAIBARA YUZAN'S PAINTINGS AND POTTERY?!
WHAT THE HECK!?
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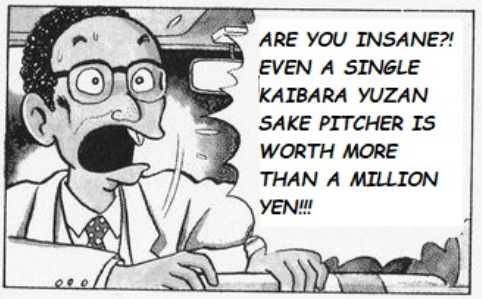
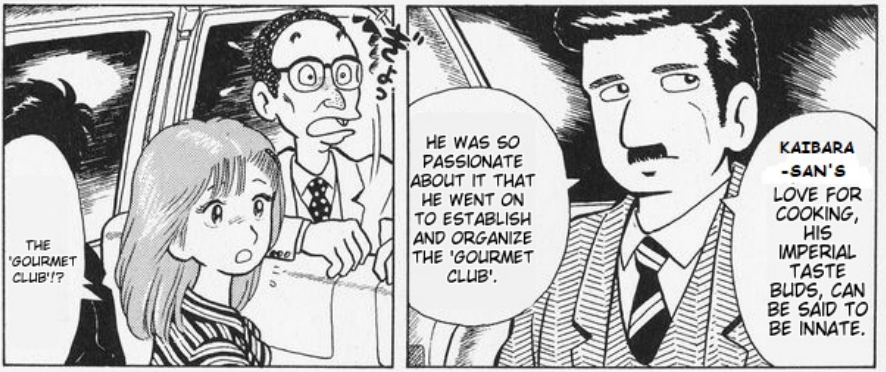
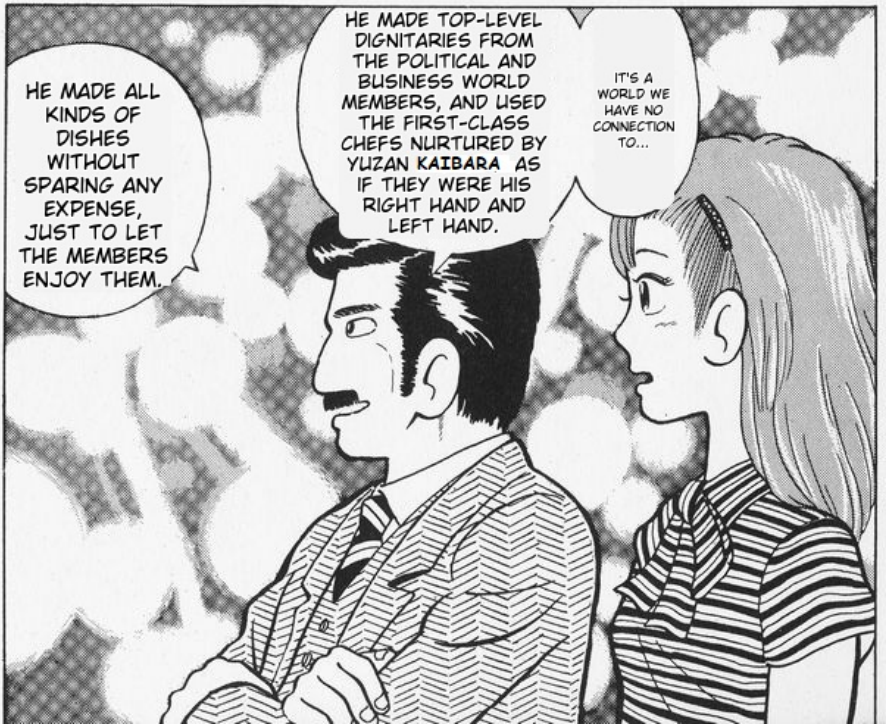
W-WHY WOULD ANYONE DO SUCH A THING!?
FOR THE SAKE OF PUNISHING THAT MAN.


ARE YOU INSANE?! EVEN A SINGLE KAIBARA YUZAN SAKE PITCHER IS WORTH MORE THAN A MILLION YEN!!!

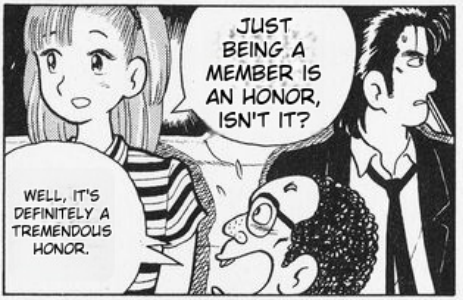
THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE TORN AND SHATTERED ARTWORKS... IS IN THE TENS OF MILLIONS, MAYBE EVEN BILLIONS!

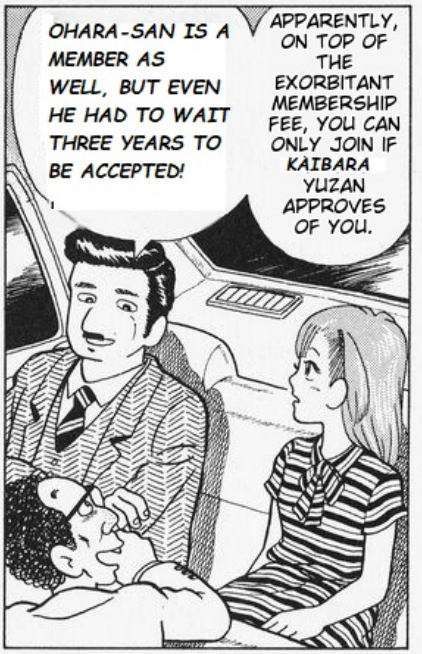
HE WAS OBSESSED WITH GOURMET FOOD TO AN ABNORMAL DEGREE, NEVER CARING ABOUT SACRIFICING HIS FAMILY FOR IT.
BUT THAT MAN MADE US SERVE BEAUTY.
FOR THAT MAN, GOURMET FOOD IS AS SIGNIFICANT AS PAINTINGS OR POTTERY. I THINK BEAUTY IS SOMETHING THAT SERVES HUMANITY... JUST LIKE ART.

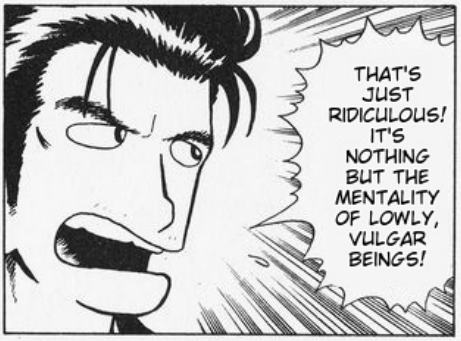

THE 'GOURMET CLUB'!?
HE WAS SO PASSIONATE ABOUT IT THAT HE WENT ON TO ESTABLISH AND ORGANIZE THE 'GOURMET CLUB'.
KAIBARA -SAN'S LOVE FOR COOKING, HIS IMPERIAL TASTE BUDS, CAN BE SAID TO BE INNATE.

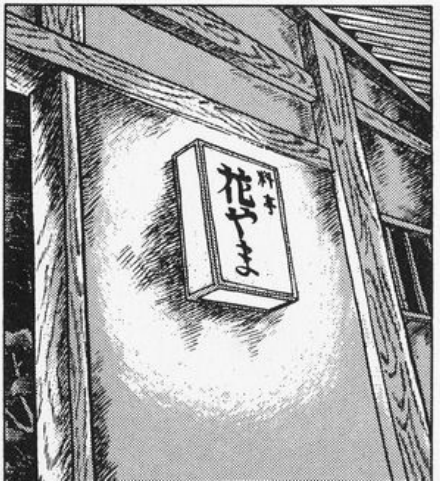

HE MADE ALL KINDS OF DISHES WITHOUT SPARING ANY EXPENSE, JUST TO LET THE MEMBERS ENJOY THEM.
HE MADE TOP-LEVEL DIGNITARIES FROM THE POLITICAL AND BUSINESS WORLD MEMBERS, AND USED THE FIRST-CLASS CHEFS NURTURED BY YUZAN KAIBARA AS IF THEY WERE HIS RIGHT HAND AND LEFT HAND.
IT'S A WORLD WE HAVE NO CONNECTION TO...

IT'S AMAZING, YOU KNOW? THEY HAVE THIS INCREDIBLE BUILDING IN THE BACKSTREETS OF GINZA THAT PUTS EVEN THE GRANDEST BANQUET HALLS TO SHAME.
OH YEAH, I'VE HEARD THE RUMORS TOO.


JUST BEING A MEMBER IS AN HONOR, ISN'T IT?
WELL, IT'S DEFINITELY A TREMENDOUS HONOR.


OHARA-SAN IS A MEMBER AS WELL, BUT EVEN HE HAD TO WAIT THREE YEARS TO BE ACCEPTED!
APPARENTLY, ON TOP OF THE EXORBITANT MEMBERSHIP FEE, YOU CAN ONLY JOIN IF KAIBARA YUZAN APPROVES OF YOU.


THAT'S JUST RIDICULOUS! IT'S NOTHING BUT THE MENTALITY OF LOWLY, VULGAR BEINGS!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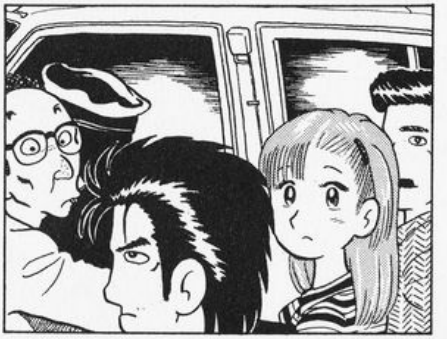
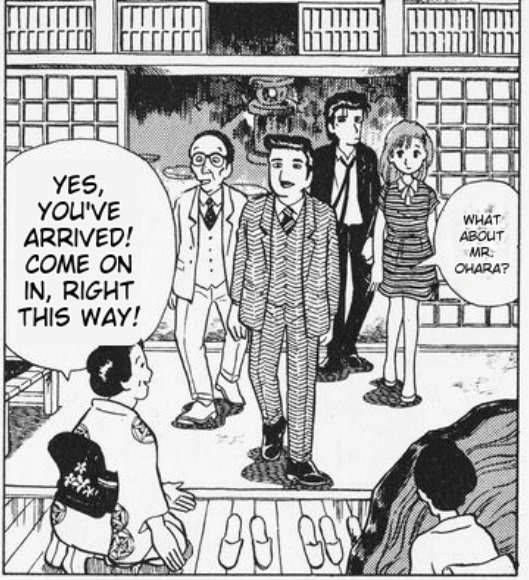
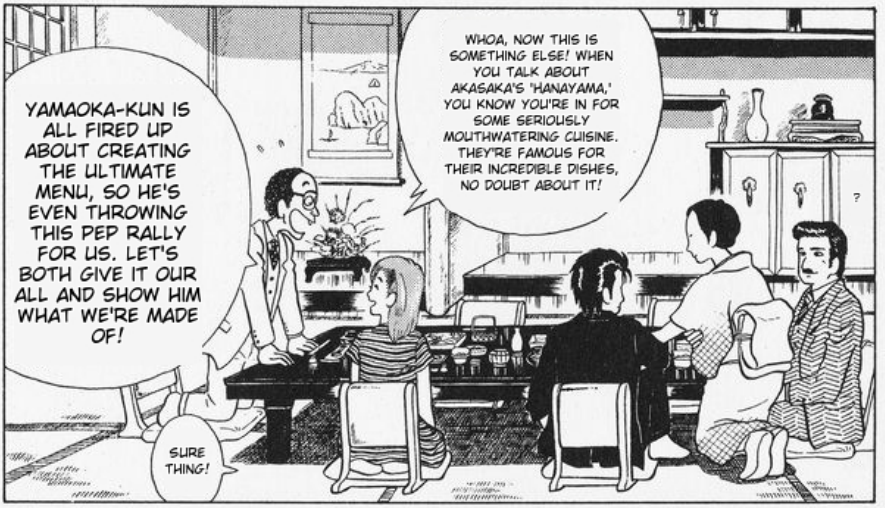
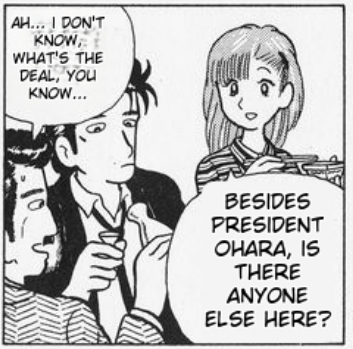


OHARA-SAN IS CURRENTLY MEETING WITH OTHER CLIENTS IN A SEPARATE ROOM. UNTIL THEY ARRIVE, LET'S TAKE MATTERS INTO OUR OWN HANDS AND DO AS WE PLEASE!


YES, YOU'VE ARRIVED! COME ON IN, RIGHT THIS WAY!
WHAT ABOUT MR. OHARA?


YAMAOKA-KUN IS ALL FIRED UP ABOUT CREATING THE ULTIMATE MENU, SO HE'S EVEN THROWING THIS PEP RALLY FOR US. LET'S BOTH GIVE IT OUR ALL AND SHOW HIM WHAT WE'RE MADE OF!
WHOA, NOW THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE! WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT AKASAKA'S 'HANAYAMA,' YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN FOR SOME SERIOUSLY MOUTHWATERING CUISINE. THEY'RE FAMOUS FOR THEIR INCREDIBLE DISHES, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
SURE THING!
?


AH... I DON'T KNOW, WHAT'S THE DEAL, YOU KNOW...
BESIDES PRESIDENT OHARA, IS THERE ANYONE ELSE HERE?

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TO THINK SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN...
EVEN IF THAT GUY GETS DOWN ON HIS KNEES AND CLINGS TO ME, I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF FORGIVING HIM!

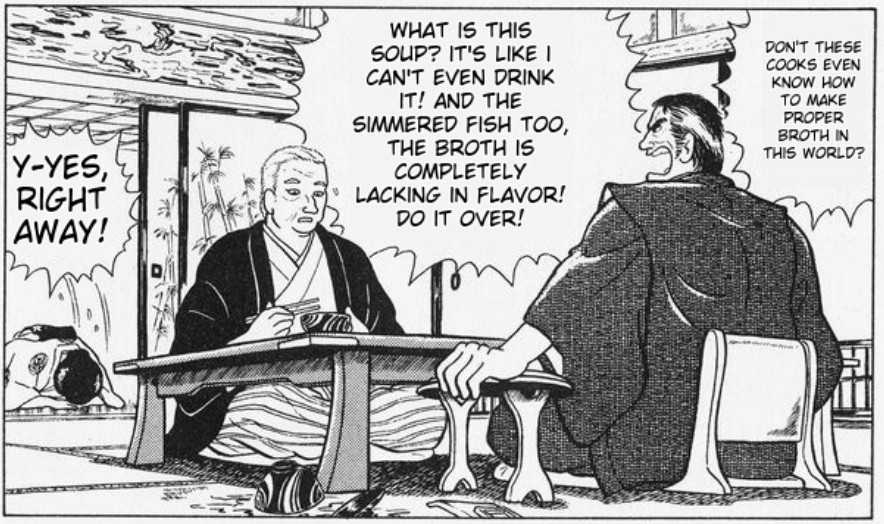
Y-YES, RIGHT AWAY!

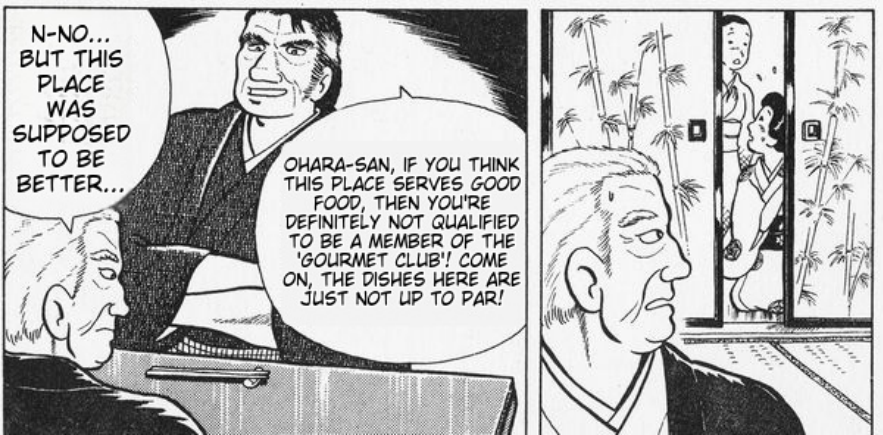
SUMMON THE LANDLADY, PRONTO!

NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
EVEN IF THAT GUY CAUSES ANY TROUBLE, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!
SHIROU IS NO LONGER MY SON, OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT.

SOMETHING INCONVENIENT HAS HAPPENED...
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS PLACE?!
THAT'S WHY I HATE BEING INVITED TO MEALS!!

THERE'S NOT A SINGLE PERSON IN THIS WORLD WHO DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT PROFESSOR KAIBARA!!!
Y-YES, OF COURSE I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
YES? HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU?
LANDLADY! THERE'S NO WAY THEY DON'T KNOW WHO I AM!
HOW DARE YOU?!
SO, THEY KNEW THEY WERE SERVING THIS KIND OF FOOD, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE AWARE OF WHO I AM?!


Y-YES, RIGHT AWAY!
WHAT IS THIS SOUP? IT'S LIKE I CAN'T EVEN DRINK IT! AND THE SIMMERED FISH TOO, THE BROTH IS COMPLETELY LACKING IN FLAVOR! DO IT OVER!
DON'T THESE COOKS EVEN KNOW HOW TO MAKE PROPER BROTH IN THIS WORLD?


N-NO... BUT THIS PLACE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE BETTER...
OHARA-SAN, IF YOU THINK THIS PLACE SERVES GOOD FOOD, THEN YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT QUALIFIED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE 'GOURMET CLUB'! COME ON, THE DISHES HERE ARE JUST NOT UP TO PAR!

AS EXPECTED OF A TOP-CLASS RESTAURANT, IT WAS ABSOLUTELY SCRUMPTIOUS.

OHARA-SAN IS SLOW... CAN YOU CALL THE LANDLADY FOR ME?
SURE THING!

I WONDER IF MY TASTE BUDS HAVE BECOME PICKY... IT WASN'T THAT DELICIOUS.

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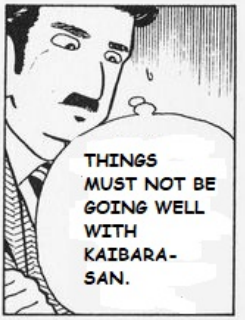
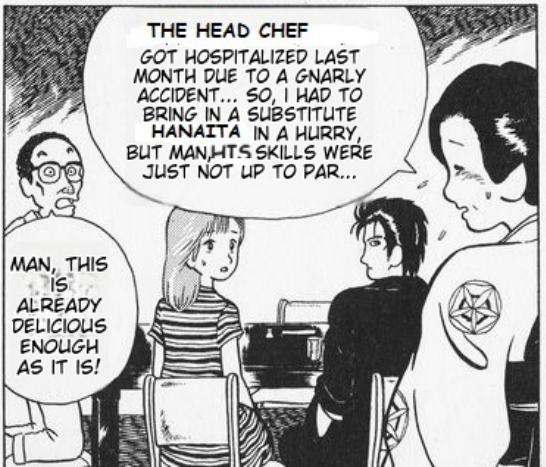

THINGS MUST NOT BE GOING WELL WITH KAIBARA-SAN.

HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU?

HANAITA, THE HEAD CHEF OF JAPANESE CUISINE!



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BUT, THIS IS A REAL PICKLE...
WHAT A RUDE CUSTOMER! FORCING HER TO DO IT THREE TIMES!
MY MOM WAS ALWAYS LIKE THIS, YOU KNOW...
ANYONE WHO'S EVER BEEN AROUND MY OLD MAN'S WORKSHOP, BE IT THE CRAFTSMEN OR THE MAIDS, KNOWS THIS LIKE THE BACK OF THEIR HAND.
I'M A CULINARY CONNOISSEUR, SO EVEN EATING AT HOME CAN BE QUITE THE CHALLENGE, YOU KNOW!
HUH!?
MY OLD MAN, WHENEVER THERE WAS SOMETHING IN ONE OF MA'S DISHES THAT DIDN'T QUITE HIT THE SPOT, HE WOULD CHUCK IT OUT, UNLEASH A TORRENT OF INSULTS, AND MAKE HER REDO IT OVER AND OVER UNTIL HE WAS SATISFIED...
FROM THE GOURMET CLUB, IT'S GREAT WHEN A CHEF COMES TO YOUR HOUSE TO COOK, BUT MOST DAYS, OF COURSE, IT'S MAMA WHO HAS TO WHIP UP A MEAL FOR PAPA.

WOW, THAT'S A CRAZY STORY, I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE IT.
NO WAY...THAT WOULD BE SO UNFAIR TO YOUR MOM!
PLEASE SHOW US TO THE KITCHEN.
BUT YOU'RE JUST A CUSTOMER!

IT'S LIKE A MAGNIFICENT BLADE, LIKE THE PLANE USED BY A MASTER CARPENTER, BUT THE EDGE IS RUSTY AND CHIPPED IN PLACES, LIKE HERE.
...WITH IT LOOKING LIKE THIS, THERE'S NO WAY THE BONITO SCRAPER WILL DO A CLEAN JOB.
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I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SHARPEN THE EDGE RIGHT NOW, MAN...
YOU KNOW, IF YOU LET THE BONITO SCRAPER GET RUSTY LIKE THIS, IT'S PROOF THAT YOU HAVEN'T TAUGHT YOUR DISCIPLES THE BASICS, MAN.
THE WAY HE SELECTS HIS BONITO SCRAPER, AND THE WAY HE'S HOSPITALIZED, THIS CHEF SEEMS TO HAVE QUITE THE SKILLS, MAN.
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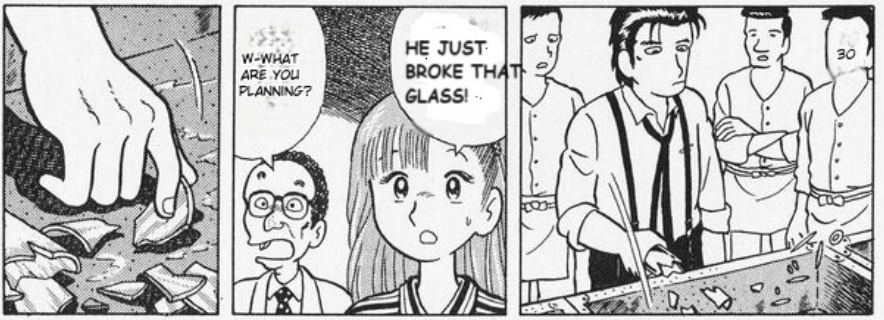
W-WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
HE JUST BROKE THAT GLASS!
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I'LL MAKE IT SO THIN YOU CAN SEE THROUGH IT!!
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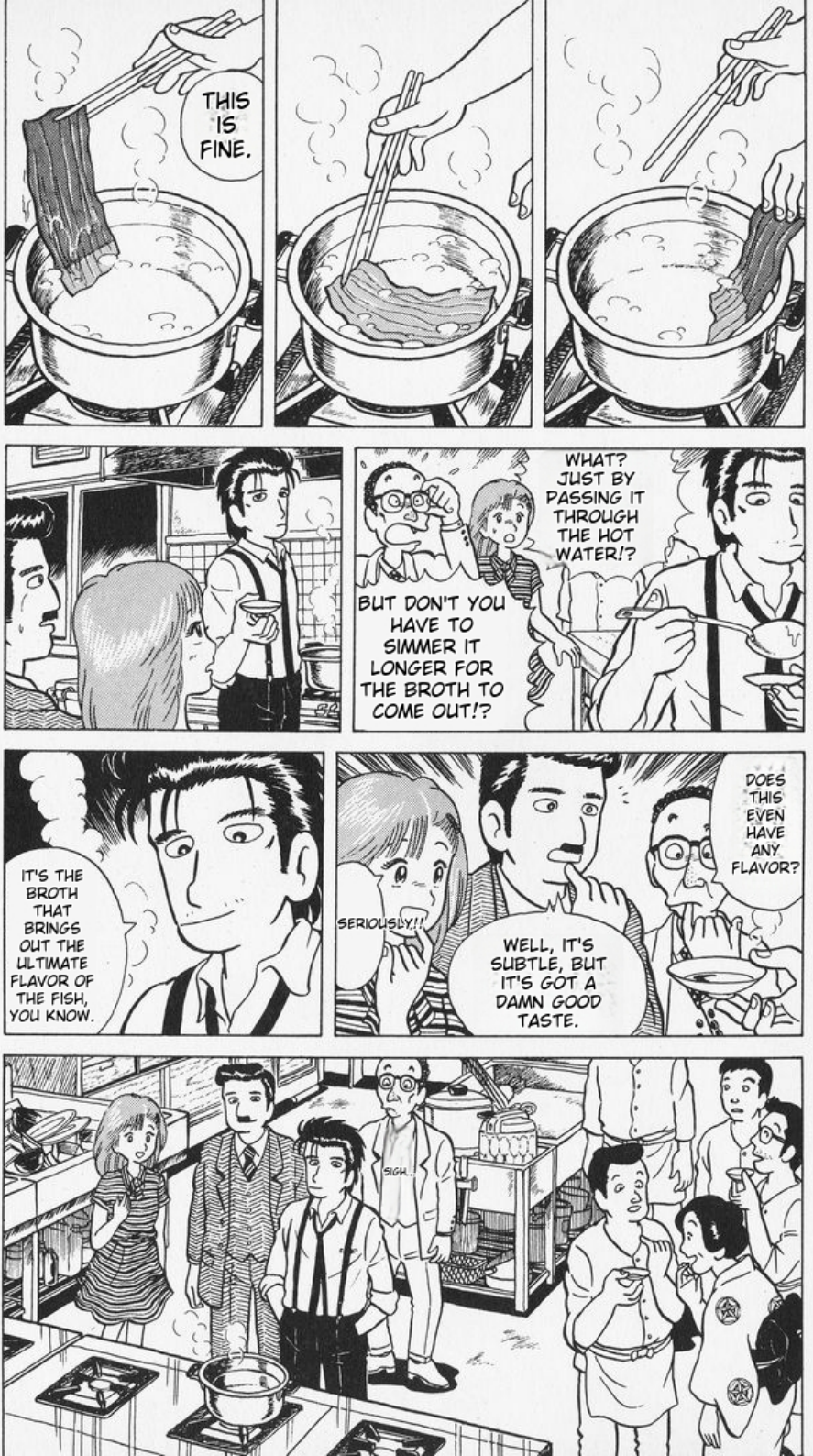
I'LL TRY MY BEST TO MAKE IT AS THIN AND NEAT AS POSSIBLE FOR THAT PURPOSE.
IF YOU BOIL BONITO FLAKES FOR TOO LONG, THEY'LL BECOME FISHY, SO THE TRICK IS TO QUICKLY EXTRACT THE BROTH.

WHAT?! ARE YOU ALREADY DONE? JUST AS THINGS WERE HEATING UP, YOU GO AND TAKE IT OFF THE STOVE... LIKE, SERIOUSLY?!

YOU SEE, IT'S BECAUSE THE FLAVORS OF THE FISH ARE GOING TO MINGLE AND MERGE...
WHEN IT COMES TO BOILING FISH, YOU GOTTA HAVE SOME BROTH, BUT NOT JUST ANY BROTH, YOU GOTTA MAKE IT WITH KELP ALONE, CAN'T GO USING BONITO FLAKES, NO WAY!

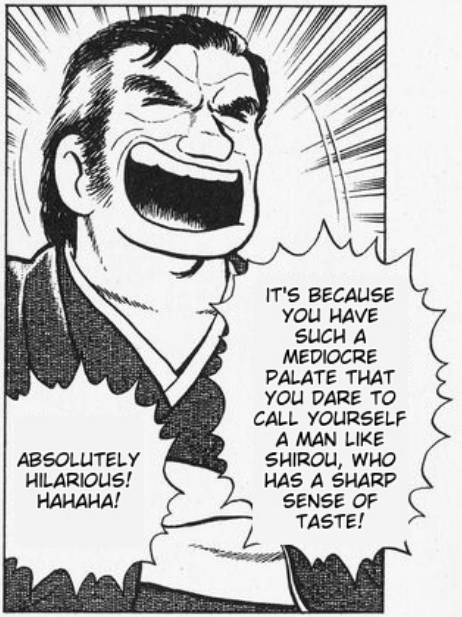
EH...?

GENTLY WASH THE DASHI KOMBU WITH A SOOTHING STREAM OF WATER, METICULOUSLY CLEANSING AWAY ANY DIRT OR IMPURITIES FROM ITS SURFACE.


THIS IS FINE.
WHAT? JUST BY PASSING IT THROUGH THE HOT WATER!?
BUT DON'T YOU HAVE TO SIMMER IT LONGER FOR THE BROTH TO COME OUT!?
IT'S THE BROTH THAT BRINGS OUT THE ULTIMATE FLAVOR OF THE FISH, YOU KNOW.
SERIOUSLY!!
WELL, IT'S SUBTLE, BUT IT'S GOT A DAMN GOOD TASTE.
DOES THIS EVEN HAVE ANY FLAVOR?
SIGH...

I THOUGHT AS THE OWNER OF THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER, YOU WOULD AT LEAST HAVE SOME DECENT FOOD, BUT HERE YOU ARE, HAPPILY SAVORING THIS TRASHY CUISINE FROM A FANCY RESTAURANT!
YOU...!?

IF YOU DIDN'T LIKE THE RESTAURANT, YOU COULD HAVE JUST LEFT YOUR SEAT.
INSTEAD, YOU FORCE THEM TO REDO THE MEAL AND BRING SHAME UPON ME.


ABSOLUTELY HILARIOUS! HAHAHA!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE SUCH A MEDIOCRE PALATE THAT YOU DARE TO CALL YOURSELF A MAN LIKE SHIROU, WHO HAS A SHARP SENSE OF TASTE!

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, SIR!

PLEASE, GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY!
AH, SO YOU'RE TRYING AGAIN?! I THOUGHT YOUR CHEF WOULD BE CRINGING IN A CORNER BY NOW!!!

HUH?

THAT TASTED COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE!
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DASHI, THE DASHI, I TELL YOU!

WHOA...!

WHAT KIND OF CHEF IS THIS?!

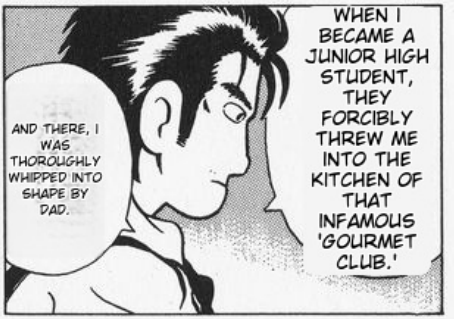
AND THE KOMBU DASHI, IT'S MADE USING THE TECHNIQUE OF 'HIKIDASHI KOMBU'! YOU CAN'T MAKE THIS DASHI IF YOU DON'T KNOW THAT TECHNIQUE!
THE WAY THEY MAKE THE BONITO DASHI IS FLAWLESS!

THIS CHEF HAS CHANGED THE GAME!
SURE THING!

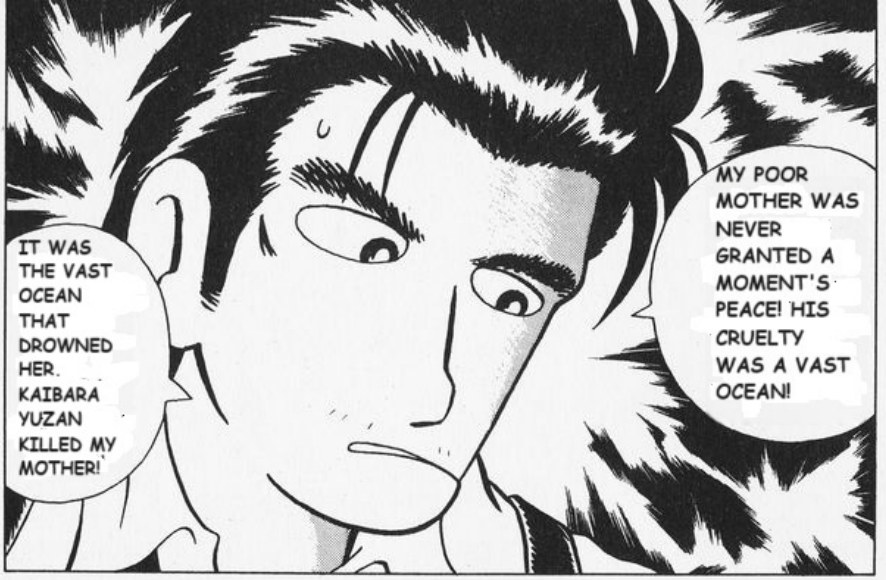
WHERE DID YOU ACQUIRE SUCH SKILLS?

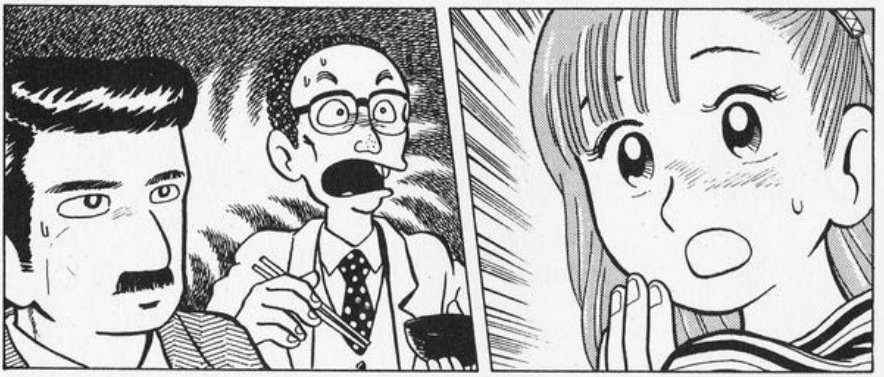
MMM, THIS IS DELICIOUS.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT JUST A DASH CAN COMPLETELY TRANSFORM THE TASTE LIKE THIS?

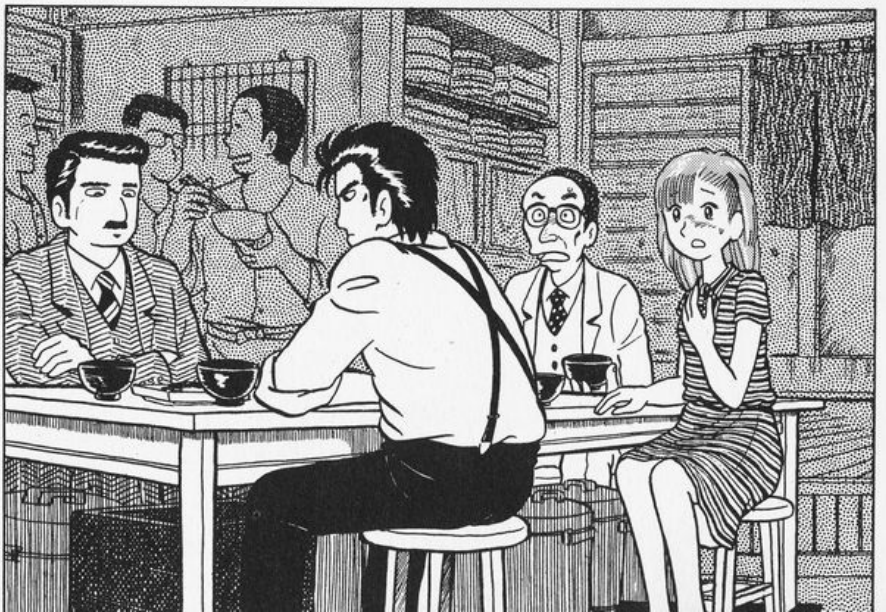
IT WAS MOM WHO SACRIFICED THE MOST FOR DAD'S GOURMET INDULGENCE, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
MY TEENAGE YEARS WERE LIKE A SACRIFICE TO DAD'S GOURMET OBSESSION... BUT I'M OKAY WITH IT.


AND THERE, I WAS THOROUGHLY WHIPPED INTO SHAPE BY DAD.
WHEN I BECAME A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT, THEY FORCIBLY THREW ME INTO THE KITCHEN OF THAT INFAMOUS 'GOURMET CLUB.'

...NO WONDER HIS COOKING SKILLS RIVAL THOSE OF A PROFESSIONAL.
SO, YAMAOKA WAS WHIPPED INTO SHAPE IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL?
SINCE JUNIOR HIGH!?


IT WAS THE VAST OCEAN THAT DROWNED HER. KAIBARA YUZAN KILLED MY MOTHER!
MY POOR MOTHER WAS NEVER GRANTED A MOMENT'S PEACE! HIS CRUELTY WAS A VAST OCEAN!





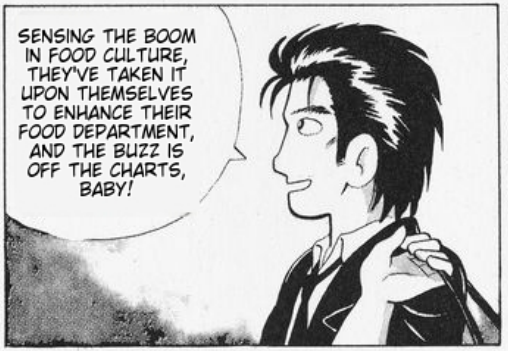
WELL, WELL, IT'S NOT EASY TO MAKE SUCH A BROTH. LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF CHEF HE IS, SHOW ME YOUR FACE, A TRULY SKILLED ONE!
SO, IT WAS YAMAOKA-KUN WHO MADE THAT BROTH!
DAMN IT, IF I KNEW THIS GUY WAS A CUSTOMER, I WOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED MAKING IT!
SO HE WAS THE TOUGH CUSTOM-ER?!!!
K-KAIBARA YUZAN?!
AND HE HAS THE AUDACITY TO BARGE INTO OUR HIGH-CLASS RESTAURANT'S KITCHEN... SERVING SUCH AMATEURISH CUISINE TO CUSTOMERS! WHAT A SHALLOW MAN!
HMPH, I'M THE ONE WHO TAUGHT HIM HOW TO MAKE THAT BROTH. EVEN THE LOWEST-RANKED CHEF IN THE 'GOURMET CLUB' CAN DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

OHARA-SAN, SOMEONE WITH AS DULL A PALATE AS YOU SHOULD BE KICKED OUT OF THE 'GOURMET CLUB' STARTING TODAY!!!
BUT, WEREN'T YOU JUST PRAISING THE VERY SAME DISH MADE BY YAMAOKA-KUN?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
YOU CLUELESS BUNCH WOULDN'T KNOW FLAVOR IF IT SMACKED YOU IN THE FACE, NOW WOULD YA?!
GO AHEAD AND GIVE IT A TRY, THIS SO-CALLED 'ULTIMATE MENU' CREATION! IT'LL BE A LAUGH FOR GENERATIONS TO COME, I GUARANTEE IT, YA KNOW!
IT SEEMS THAT THE CLASH BETWEEN THE TWO IS NOT SOMETHING WE CAN RESOLVE, MY DEAR COMRADES.
HE HAS NO COMPASSION WHEN IT COMES TO THE GOURMET! HOW TERRIBLE!!!
HE'S LIKE A RAVENOUS BEAST OF GOURMET DELIGHTS!!

NO... I'M STILL TRAPPED IN THE PALM OF THAT MAN'S HAND...
TODAY, YAMAOKA SCORED A VICTORY, SO NOW IT'S ONE WIN AND ONE LOSS, WE'RE NECK AND NECK!
BUT MARK MY WORDS, JUST YOU WAIT, I'LL MAKE HIM BOW DOWN BEFORE ME!!

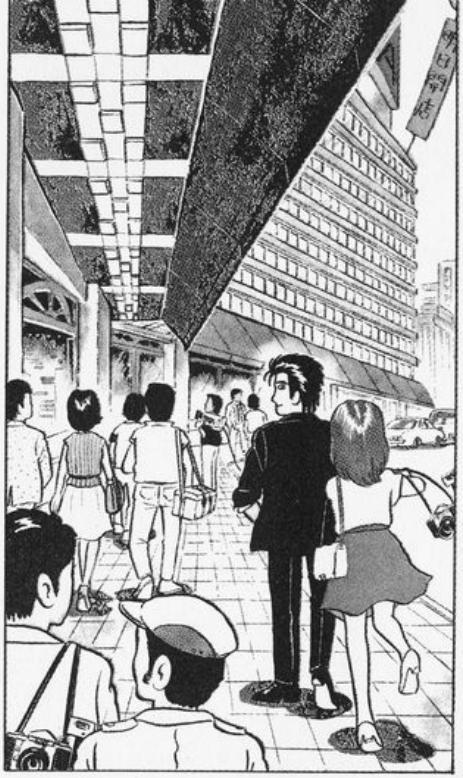
第8話
野菜の鮮度
地下鉄
SUBWAY
銀座駅

NEW GINZA
NEW GINZA
NEW GINZA
NAV
NAV
NEW GINZA DEPARTMENT STORE, BABY!


SENSING THE BOOM IN FOOD CULTURE, THEY'VE TAKEN IT UPON THEMSELVES TO ENHANCE THEIR FOOD DEPARTMENT, AND THE BUZZ IS OFF THE CHARTS, BABY!

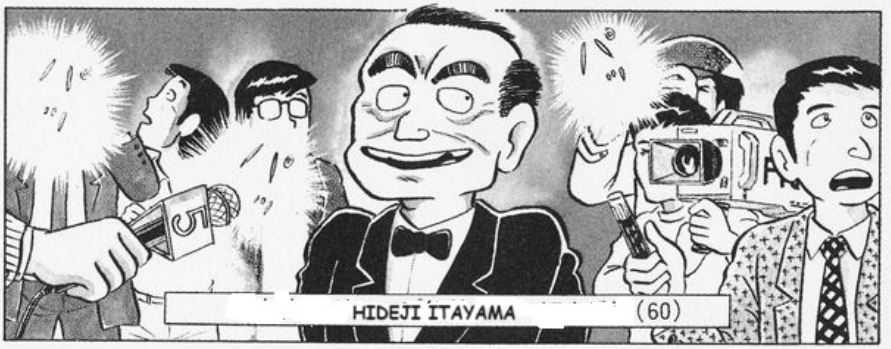
NEW GINZ
THIS IS THE BRAND NEW DEPARTMENT STORE BUILT BY THE KING OF THE RETAIL INDUSTRY, HIDEJI ITAYAMA...
TBK

LET'S GO.
SURE THING, BABY!

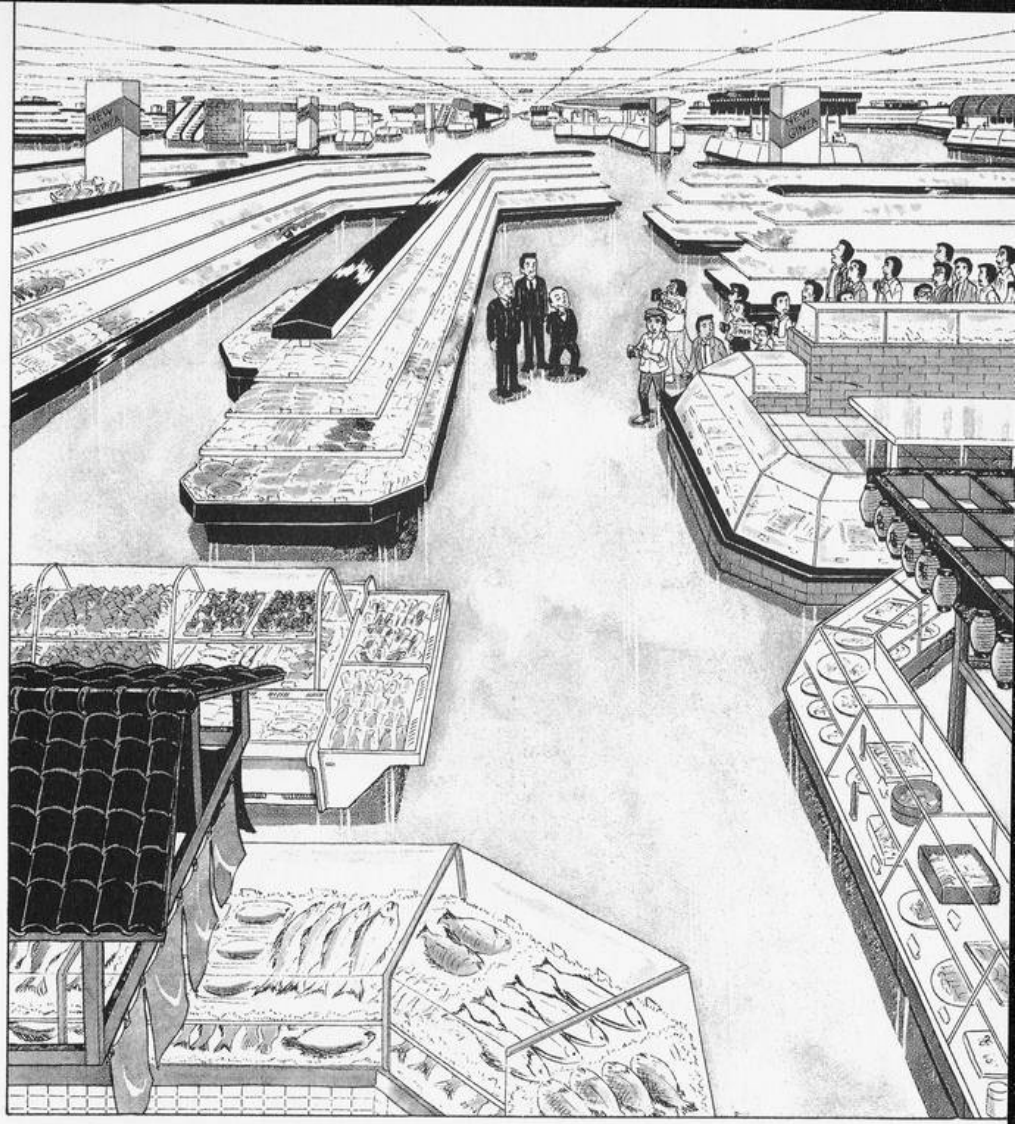


I'M EXCITED TO FINALLY TACKLE THE ULTIMATE MENU! MY FIRST BIG STORY!
YAMAOKA-SAN! WAIT UP! YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE ME, AFTER ALL.

I'VE GOT TO DO SOME REPORTING OF MY OWN, WITHOUT LOSING TO ANYONE!


HIDEJI ITAYAMA (60)

THE BIGGEST ATTRACTION AT NEW GINZA DEPARTMENT STORE IS ITS FOOD MARKET AND DINING DISTRICT.
THE FOOD SECTIONS ON THE FIRST AND SECOND BASEMENT FLOORS PROUDLY BOAST MARKETS THAT CAN RIVAL TSUKIJI MARKET IN THE EAST AND NISHIKI MARKET IN KYOTO. FEAST YOUR EYES ON THEM!
B2F


NEW GINZA
NEW GINZA

BK

BON APPÉTIT
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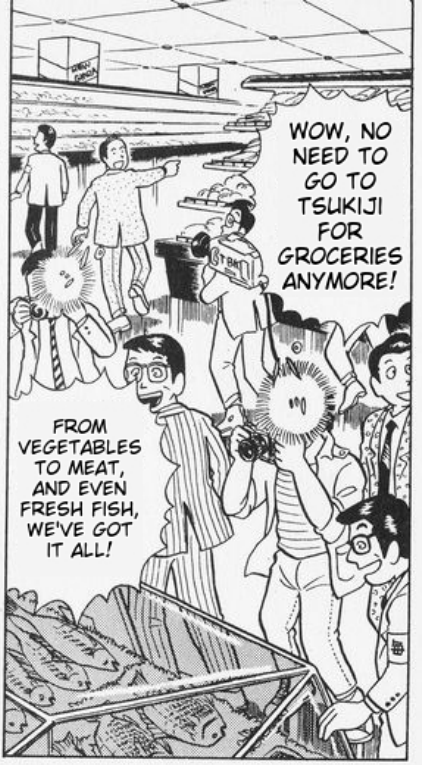

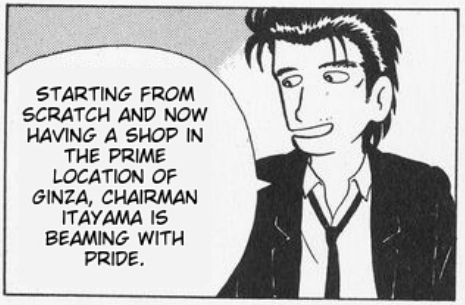

JTBK
WE'RE JUST...
WE'RE ALL ABOUT KEEPING THINGS FRESH AND CRISPY, YOU KNOW...
WHOA, YAMAOKA-SAN!?

YAMAOKA-SAN, EVERYONE CAN HEAR YOU...
THESE JUST LOOK FRESH, THAT'S ALL...

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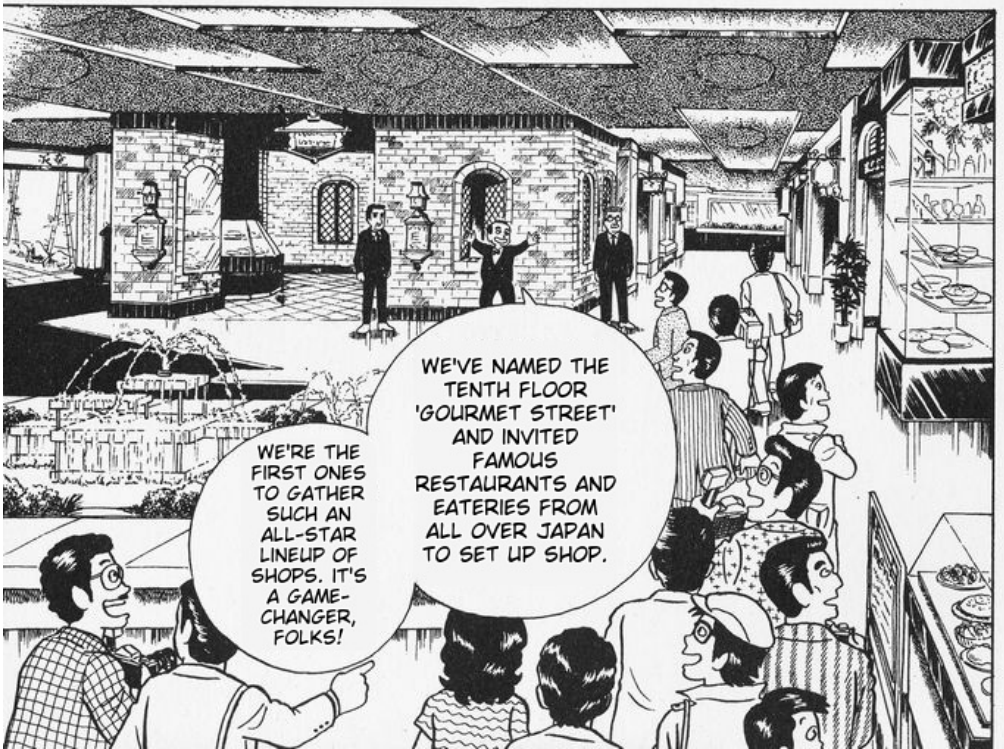
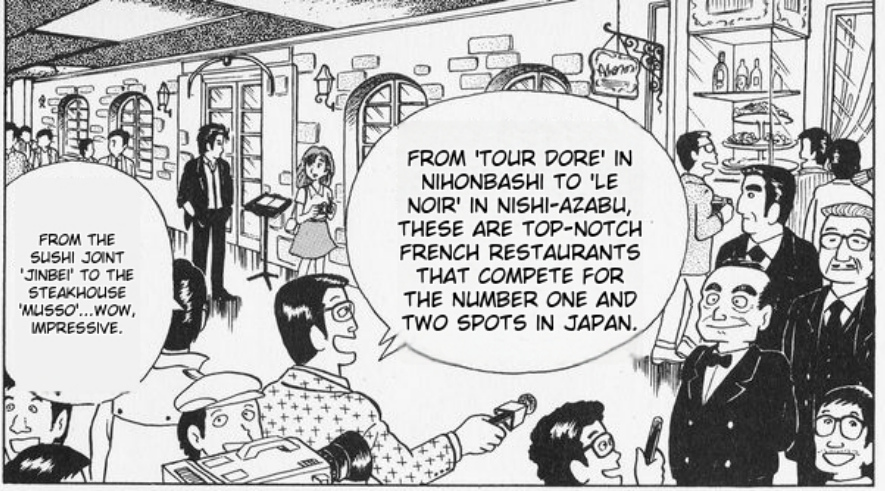
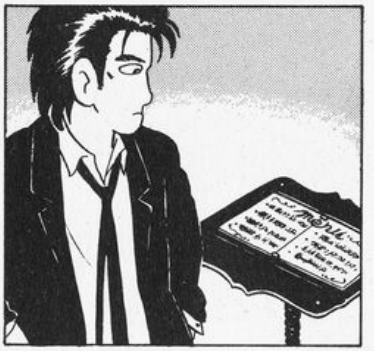

WE'VE NAMED THE TENTH FLOOR 'GOURMET STREET' AND INVITED FAMOUS RESTAURANTS AND EATERIES FROM ALL OVER JAPAN TO SET UP SHOP.
WE'RE THE FIRST ONES TO GATHER SUCH AN ALL-STAR LINEUP OF SHOPS. IT'S A GAME-CHANGER, FOLKS!

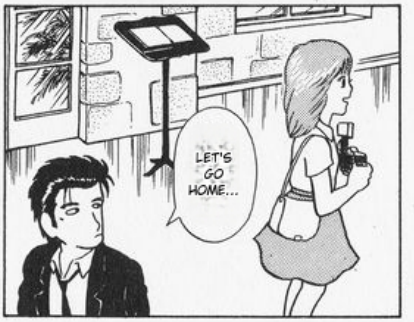

FROM THE SUSHI JOINT 'JINBEI' TO THE STEAKHOUSE 'MUSSO'...WOW, IMPRESSIVE.
FROM 'TOUR DORE' IN NIHONBASHI TO 'LE NOIR' IN NISHI-AZABU, THESE ARE TOP-NOTCH FRENCH RESTAURANTS THAT COMPETE FOR THE NUMBER ONE AND TWO SPOTS IN JAPAN.

ON THIS GOURMET STREET, I WANT YOU TO ENTER AS MANY OF YOUR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS AS YOU LIKE AND FEAST TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
THIS IS EXTRAVAGANT! WE CAN GO INTO ANY STORE!
LET'S GO ON A SPREE OF CHINESE, SUSHI, AND TEMPURA!
I'M IN THE MOOD FOR AUTHENTIC FRENCH CUISINE!

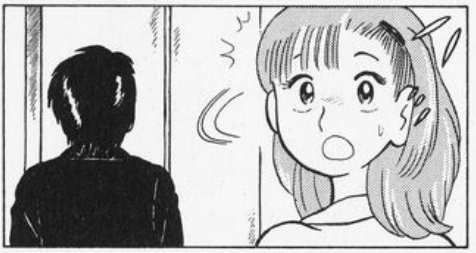


...AS PART OF OUR COVERAGE TODAY, TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PRESS...

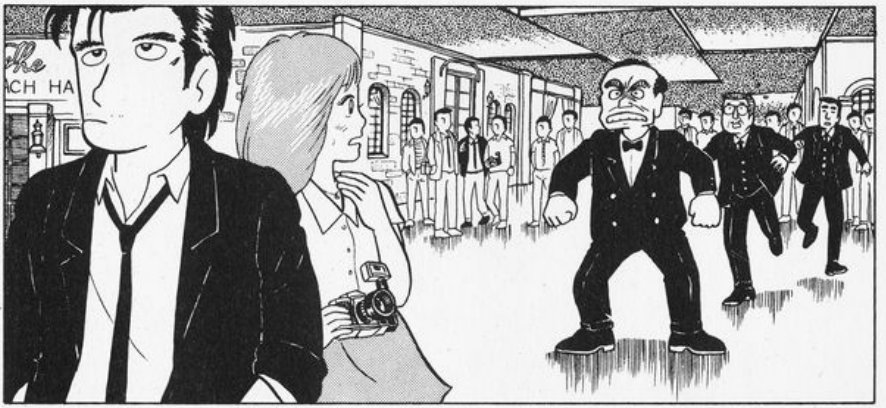
LEAVE IT TO THE OTHER REPORTERS, WE HAVE NO BUSINESS WORTH COVERING.
WHAT?! WHY NOT!?


LET'S GO HOME...

OH, COME ON! LET ME TREAT YOU TO SOMETHING NICE...



VALLE
BUT YOU SEE, EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM IS A RENOWNED ESTABLISHMENT.


ACH HA

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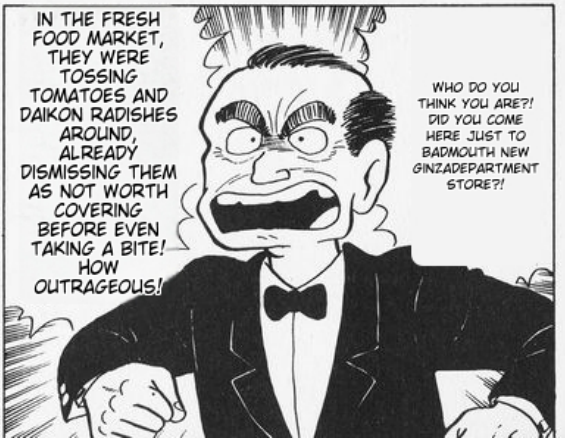
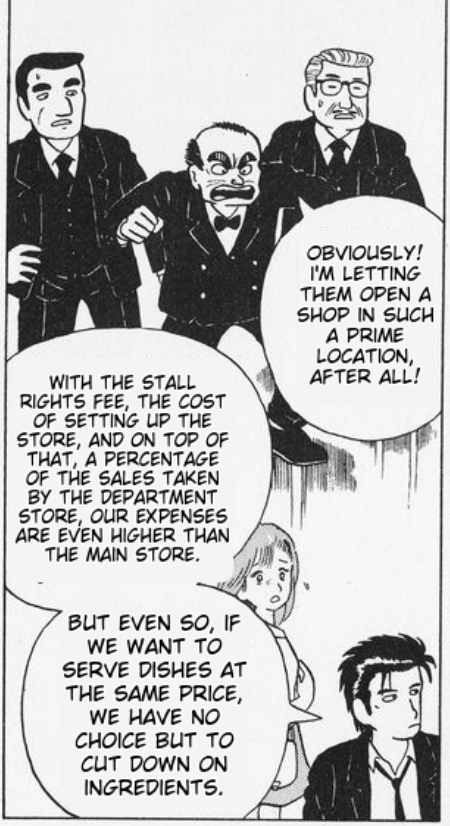
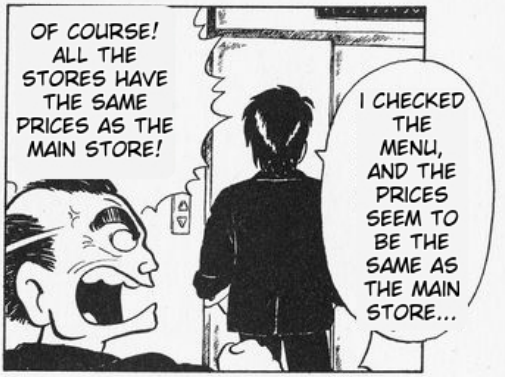
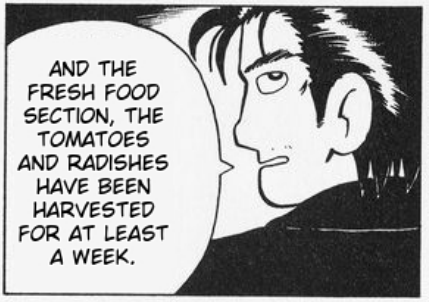

IN THE FRESH FOOD MARKET, THEY WERE TOSSING TOMATOES AND DAIKON RADISHES AROUND, ALREADY DISMISSING THEM AS NOT WORTH COVERING BEFORE EVEN TAKING A BITE! HOW OUTRAGEOUS!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?! DID YOU COME HERE JUST TO BADMOUTH NEW GINZADEPARTMENT STORE?!

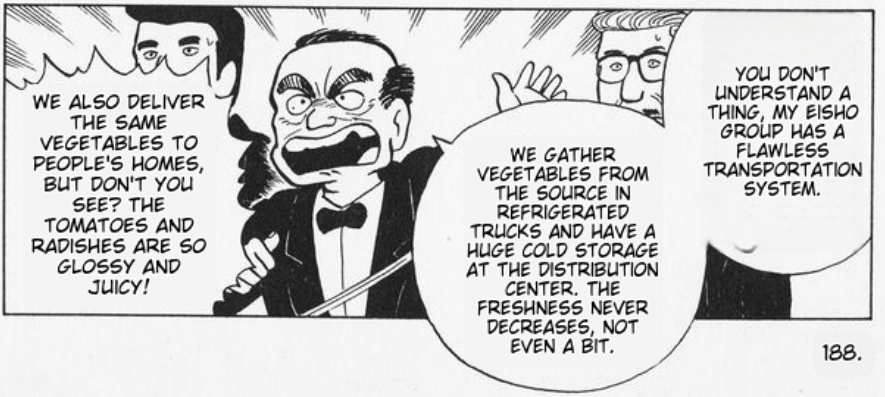

OBVIOUSLY! I'M LETTING THEM OPEN A SHOP IN SUCH A PRIME LOCATION, AFTER ALL!
WITH THE STALL RIGHTS FEE, THE COST OF SETTING UP THE STORE, AND ON TOP OF THAT, A PERCENTAGE OF THE SALES TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT STORE, OUR EXPENSES ARE EVEN HIGHER THAN THE MAIN STORE.
BUT EVEN SO, IF WE WANT TO SERVE DISHES AT THE SAME PRICE, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CUT DOWN ON INGREDIENTS.


I CHECKED THE MENU, AND THE PRICES SEEM TO BE THE SAME AS THE MAIN STORE...
OF COURSE! ALL THE STORES HAVE THE SAME PRICES AS THE MAIN STORE!

BUT YOU CHARGE A STALL FEE FROM EVERY STORE, DON'T YOU?


AND THE FRESH FOOD SECTION, THE TOMATOES AND RADISHES HAVE BEEN HARVESTED FOR AT LEAST A WEEK.

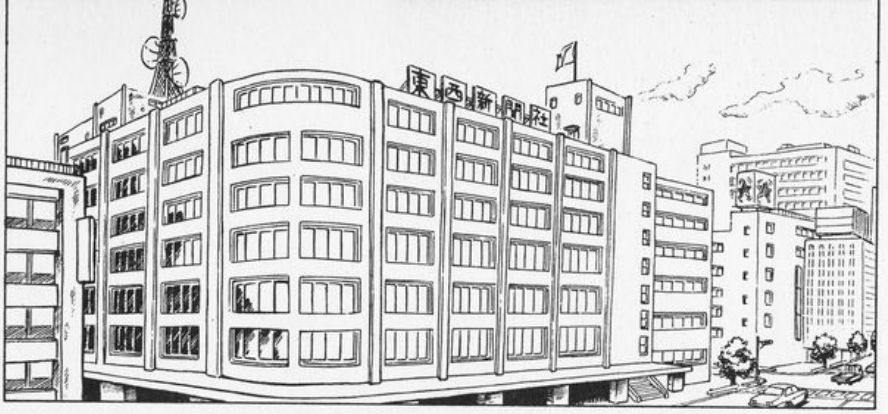
IF WE CUT DOWN ON INGREDIENTS, THE TASTE WILL NATURALLY SUFFER.


WE ALSO DELIVER THE SAME VEGETABLES TO PEOPLE'S HOMES, BUT DON'T YOU SEE? THE TOMATOES AND RADISHES ARE SO GLOSSY AND JUICY!
WE GATHER VEGETABLES FROM THE SOURCE IN REFRIGERATED TRUCKS AND HAVE A HUGE COLD STORAGE AT THE DISTRIBUTION CENTER. THE FRESHNESS NEVER DECREASES, NOT EVEN A BIT.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING, MY EISHO GROUP HAS A FLAWLESS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

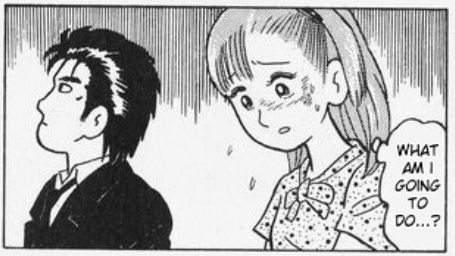
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME, YOUNG WHELP!! I'M A MAN WHO CLAWED HIS WAY UP FROM THE DEPTHS OF POVERTY, AND YOU DARE TO...
S-STOP, CHAIRMAN!
STATE YOUR NAME, YOU FOOL! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
BOASTING ABOUT THOSE VEGETABLES LIKE IT'S SOME KIND OF ACHIEVEMENT, IT JUST SHOWS HOW MEDIOCRE THE EISHO GROUP REALLY IS...
WHAT THE HECK?!

ALL RIGHT... I WON'T LET YOU OFF SO EASILY...
TOZAI NEWS?! DAMN THEM!!!
SHIRO YAMAOKA, TOZAI NEWS.

OH, MAN. TOZAI'S IN FOR TROUBLE.
TO ANGER CHAIRMAN ITAYAMA...



THEY'VE ACTUALLY TOLD US THEY WON'T BUY ANY MORE ADS IN OUR PAPER!!!
THE EI SHOU GROUP IS A CRUCIAL ADVERTISER FOR THE TOUSAI NEWSPAPER, YOU KNOW! THE TOTAL ADVERTISING VOLUME FROM THE GROUP EXCEEDED 10 BILLION LAST YEAR!!


WHAT AM I GOING TO DO...?

THAT'S NOT ALL! THEY EVEN PUT PRESSURE ON THE DEPARTMENT STORE ASSOCIATION AND ADVERTISING AGENCIES...
IF THAT HAPPENS, OUR COMPANY WILL GO UNDER! DON'T THEY REALIZE THAT MORE THAN HALF OF A NEWSPAPER'S INCOME RELIES ON ADVERTISING FEES?!

UGH, SERIOUSLY-- JUST WHEN I FINALLY GOT MOTIVATED AND EXCITED TO GO OUT, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS.

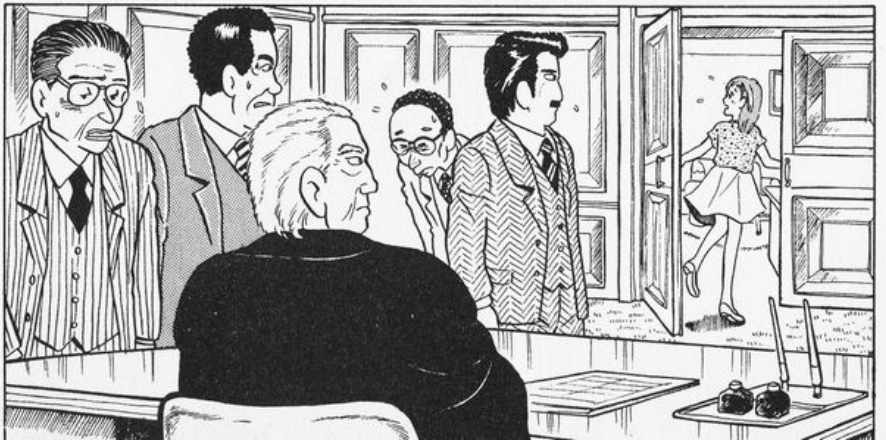
YAMAOKA, HOW DID THINGS END UP LIKE THIS, SON?
TO MAKE MY OLD MAN BOW DOWN IN AWE...
EVEN IF IT'S THE EISHO GROUP WE'RE DEALING WITH, I'VE GOTTA STICK TO MY GUNS WHEN IT COMES TO THE TASTE OF FOOD, SIR.

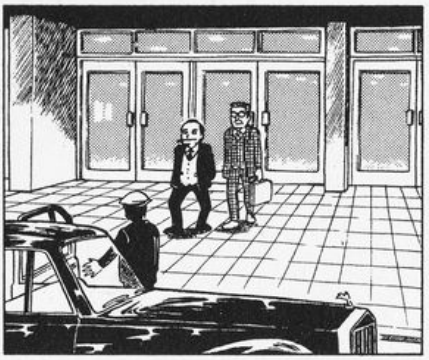
EXECUTIVE, DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING, PLEASE FORGIVE ME. YAMAOKA HAS BEEN GOING THROUGH ALL SORTS OF THINGS THESE PAST FEW DAYS, HIS MIND MUST BE ALL SCRAMBLED!
ON SUCH A GLORIOUS OPENING DAY, YOU HAD TO GO AND ANGER CHAIRMAN ITAYAMA...

YAMAOKA, WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO TO ME NOW, IT WON'T SETTLE THE SCORE... I GUARANTEE IT...
WHAT THE HELL! IT'S LIKE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE! HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED ANYTHING?!

KURITA-KUN...
W-WELL...





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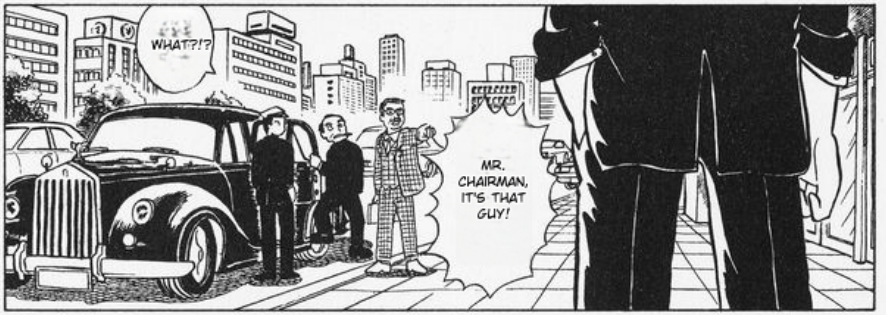
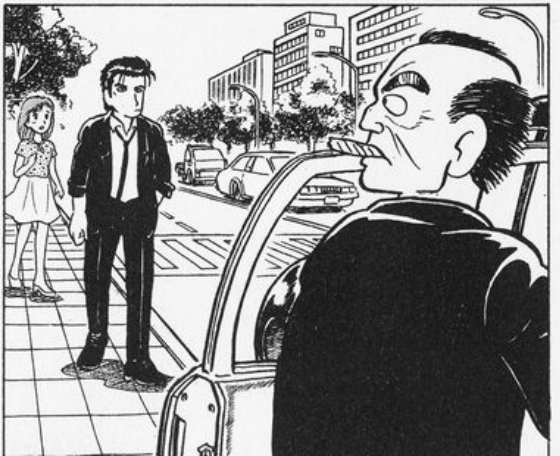
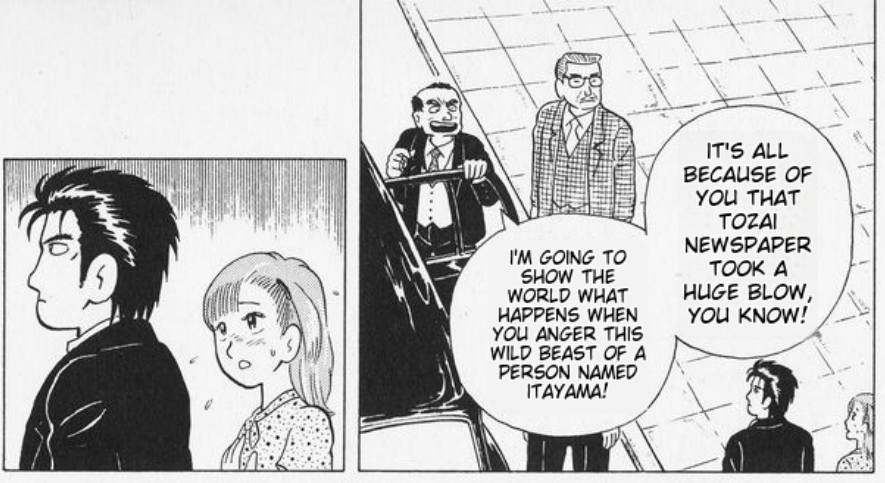
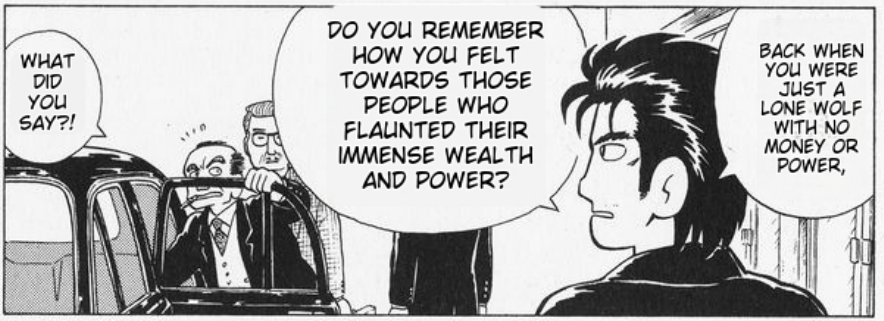
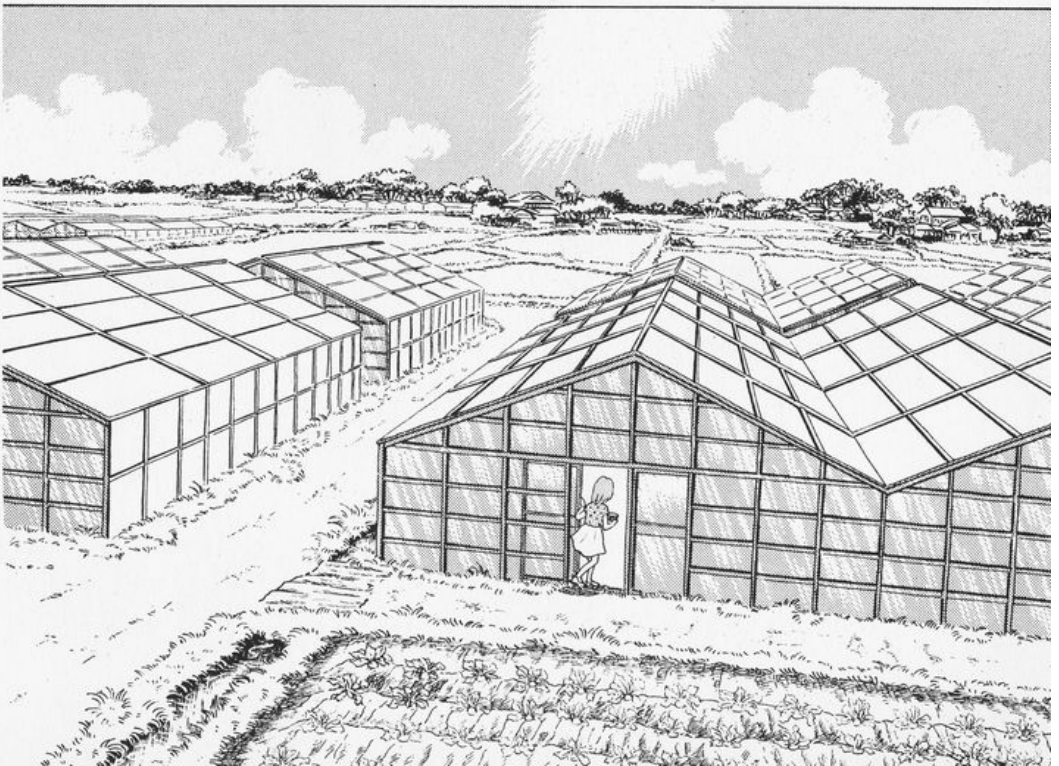

WHAT?!?
MR. CHAIRMAN, IT'S THAT GUY!

WHAT DOES HE THINK HE'S DOING...!?

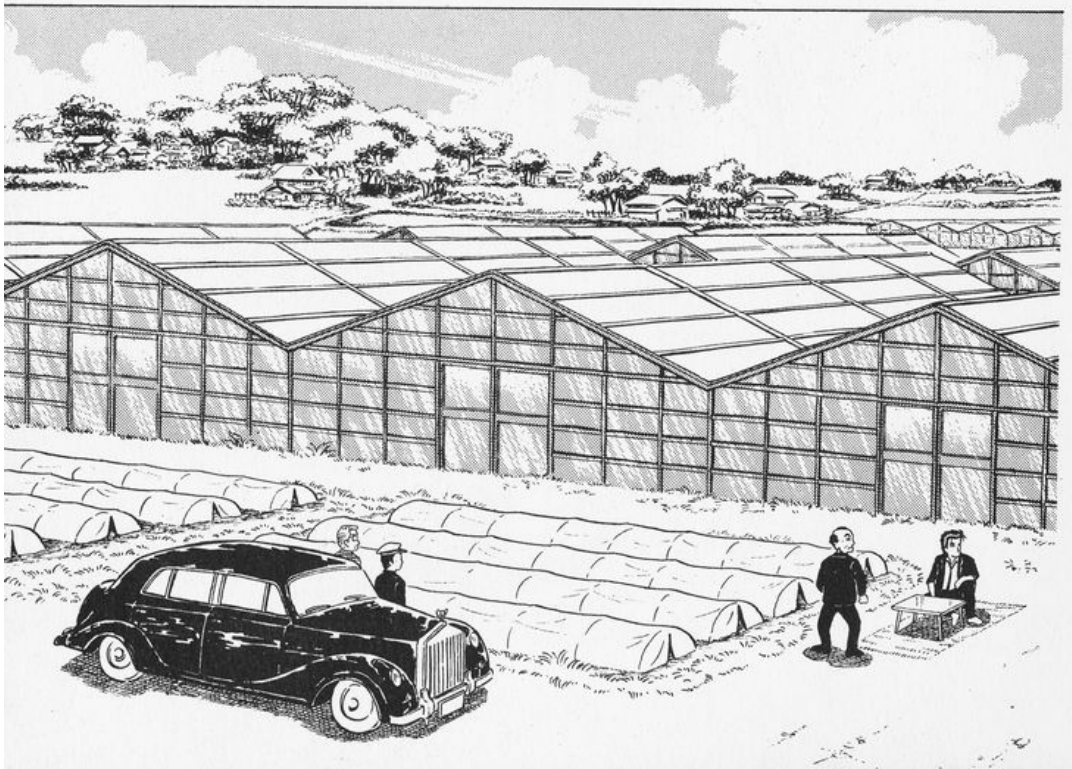



IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU THAT TOZAI NEWSPAPER TOOK A HUGE BLOW, YOU KNOW!
I'M GOING TO SHOW THE WORLD WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ANGER THIS WILD BEAST OF A PERSON NAMED ITAYAMA!


WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU FELT TOWARDS THOSE PEOPLE WHO FLAUNTED THEIR IMMENSE WEALTH AND POWER?
BACK WHEN YOU WERE JUST A LONE WOLF WITH NO MONEY OR POWER,



OH, DELICIOUS ONES, OH!



THESE ARE FRESHLY PICKED TOMATOES, YOU KNOW.
YOU DRAGGED ME OUT HERE WHILE I'M BUSY, JUST TO FEED ME TOMATOES?!
DON'T YOU DARE MESS AROUND, HUH?!
WELL, GO AHEAD AND TASTE IT.
...THIS AROMA...

THIS AROMA, THIS AROMA!! BACK IN THE DAY, EVERY TOMATO HAD THIS INCREDIBLE SCENT, BABY!
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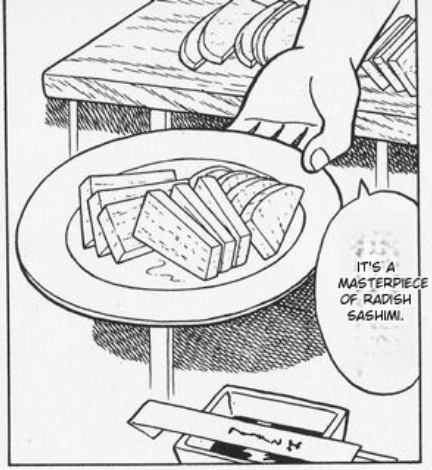
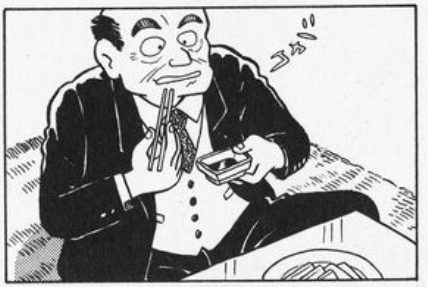

IT'S A MASTERPIECE OF RADISH SASHIMI.

RADISHES FROM THE OLD DAYS HAD THIS KIND OF FLAVOR TOO...
MMM... THE SWEETNESS... THE TEXTURE... THE REFRESHING SENSATION... THE VIVID AROMA...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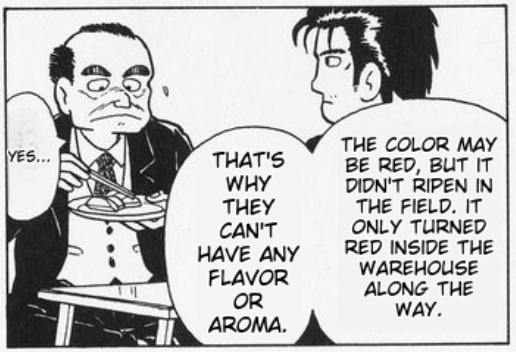
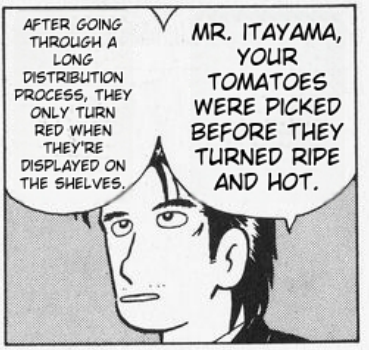
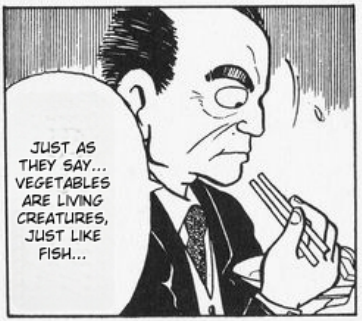
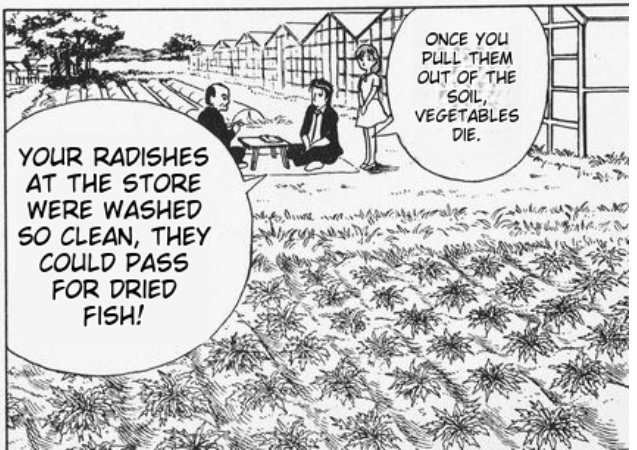
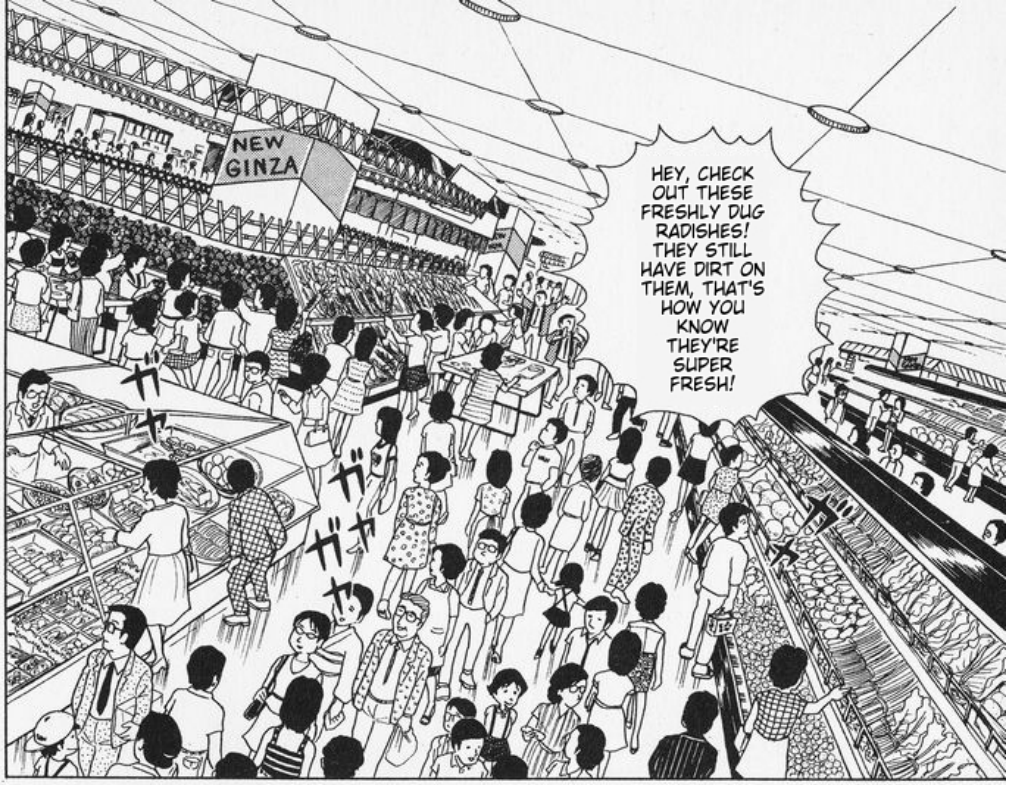

YES...
THAT'S WHY THEY CAN'T HAVE ANY FLAVOR OR AROMA.
THE COLOR MAY BE RED, BUT IT DIDN'T RIPEN IN THE FIELD. IT ONLY TURNED RED INSIDE THE WAREHOUSE ALONG THE WAY.


AFTER GOING THROUGH A LONG DISTRIBUTION PROCESS, THEY ONLY TURN RED WHEN THEY'RE DISPLAYED ON THE SHELVES.
MR. ITAYAMA, YOUR TOMATOES WERE PICKED BEFORE THEY TURNED RIPE AND HOT.


JUST AS THEY SAY... VEGETABLES ARE LIVING CREATURES, JUST LIKE FISH...


ONCE YOU PULL THEM OUT OF THE SOIL, VEGETABLES DIE.
YOUR RADISHES AT THE STORE WERE WASHED SO CLEAN, THEY COULD PASS FOR DRIED FISH!

ALL RIGHTY THEN, I'VE GOT MYSELF A GOLDEN TIP FOR A MASSIVE PROFIT!
GATHER ALL THE STORE MANAGERS AND EXECUTIVES OF THE EISHO GROUP PRONTO! IT'S AN EMERGENCY MEETING, BABY!
HURRY UP AND GET BACK HERE!
ブオオオ
YO, YAMAOKA-SAN!


NEW GINZA
HEY, CHECK OUT THESE FRESHLY DUG RADISHES! THEY STILL HAVE DIRT ON THEM, THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW THEY'RE SUPER FRESH!
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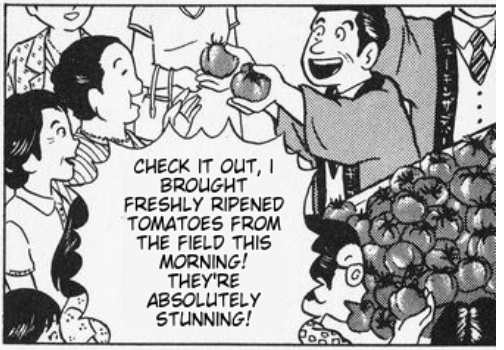
HAHAHA! THANKS TO YAMAGOKA-KUN, THE FRESH PRODUCE SECTION IS A HUGE HIT!
AND LET ME TELL YOU, THE ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT IS OVER THE MOON WITH ALL THE NEW AD PLACEMENTS FLOODING IN!


CHECK IT OUT, I BROUGHT FRESHLY RIPENED TOMATOES FROM THE FIELD THIS MORNING! THEY'RE ABSOLUTELY STUNNING!

HEY, DOESN'T IT LOOK JUST LIKE SASHIMI? SO FRESH AND DELICIOUS!
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE DIRT-COVERED, SUPER FRESH DAIKON THAT WE CAN SAVOR THE TRUE ESSENCE OF DAIKON SASHIMI!

LIKE, TOTALLY GOURMET!
WOW, I'M SO EXCITED!!
FROM NOW ON, I SWEAR ON THE PRIDE OF THE DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY, WE WILL DELIVER THE AUTHENTIC TASTE DIRECTLY FROM THE PRODUCERS ALL OVER JAPAN.
YOU KNOW, YOU CAN TRY TO PRESERVE FRESHNESS WITH TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, BUT YOU END UP LOSING THE AUTHENTIC TASTE.
DID YOU SEE THIS FRESH FOOD?!
OH, YAMAOKA-KUN!!
THEY JUST MADE THE SOUVENIR SHOP AT THE STATION BIGGER, BUT THERE'S NOTHING NEW OR EXCITING ABOUT IT.
WELL, ON THE BASEMENT FLOOR ABOVE, THERE ARE SHOPS SELLING FAMOUS REGIONAL PRODUCTS FROM ALL OVER JAPAN.
...STILL SOMETHING...

TALKING ABOUT THE STATION'S SHELVES AND SUCH...
H-HEY, YAMAOKA, WATCH YOUR WORDS!
CALL THE MANAGER AND THE FLOOR MANAGER, PRONTO!
YAMAOKA, GET YOUR BUTT OVER HERE!
NOW NOW, THE TASTE AND AROMA ARE OUTSTANDING! THIS IS THE REAL DEAL, BABY!

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HEY, YUUKO, HURRY UP! WE'RE GONNA BE LATE!
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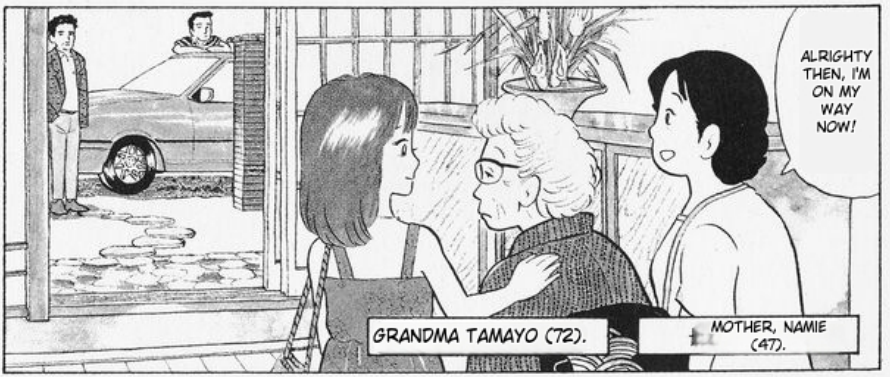
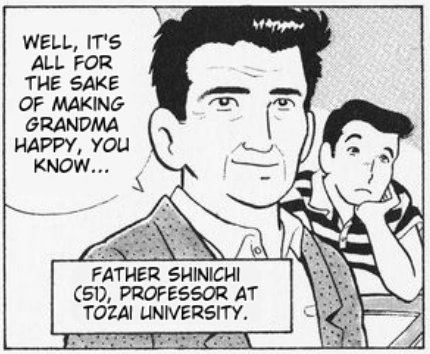

ALRIGHTY THEN, I'M ON MY WAY NOW!
GRANDMA TAMAYO (72).
MOTHER, NAMIE (47).


WELL, IT'S ALL FOR THE SAKE OF MAKING GRANDMA HAPPY, YOU KNOW...
FATHER SHINICHI (51), PROFESSOR AT TOZAI UNIVERSITY.

WE HAD PLANS TO GO WATCH A FOOTBALL GAME WITH MY GIRLFRIEND IN THE AFTERNOON...
BROTHER MAKOTO (27), EMPLOYEE AT DAI-NICHI ELECTRONICS.

OH MY GOODNESS!
THESE TAXI DRIVERS NOWADAYS, ALWAYS TALKING WITH SUCH A ROUGH MOUTH, YOU KNOW?
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT.
THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
ALRIGHT, HOP ON, HOP ON!
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HEY, IT'S ME, MAKOTO, YOUR GRANDSON!
OH, MR. MAKOTO FROM THE SHIBA CLOTHING STORE, LONG TIME NO SEE! HOW'S YOUR FATHER DOING?
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OH? YOU MEAN MR. MAKOTO...?
OH, GRANDMA, YOU'RE SUCH A CHARACTER...
COME ON, LET'S GO, SHALL WE?

UNTIL SHE COULDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE ME... WHAT A BUMMER.
ガタゴト
MAN, THOSE DAYS WHEN I ATE WITH GRANDPA WERE A BLAST!
RIGHT, GRANNY?
THERE WAS THIS LIVELY AND SPIRITED GRANNY, KNOWN AS THE HIPPEST GRANNY AROUND,
YOU KNOW, THEY SAY THAT AS YOU GET OLDER, YOU START TO YEARN FOR THE GOOD OLD TIMES.
BUT SERIOUSLY, WHO EVER HEARD OF SOMEONE CRAVING CHICKEN?
ABSOLUTELY...
IF ONLY EATING CHICKEN COULD MAKE MY MEMORY A BIT SHARPER...
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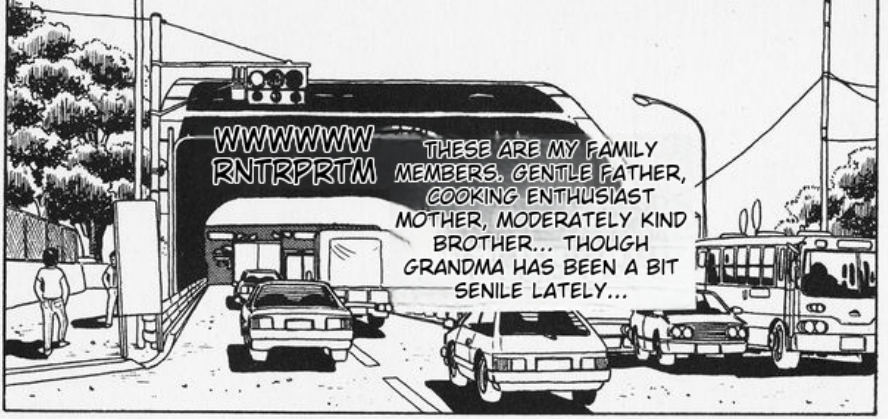
HEY, REMEMBER HOW DELICIOUS THAT CHICKEN HOT POT WAS AT "TORI GEN" IN TSUKIJI?


WWWWWW
RNTRPRTM
THESE ARE MY FAMILY MEMBERS. GENTLE FATHER, COOKING ENTHUSIAST MOTHER, MODERATELY KIND BROTHER... THOUGH GRANDMA HAS BEEN A BIT SENILE LATELY...

WELL, WE'VE ARRIVED! IT'S A BIRD CUISINE RESTAURANT THAT HAS BEEN AROUND FOR FIFTY YEARS.
鳥玄

OH MY... IS THIS REALLY THE PLACE? I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING IS DIFFERENT THOUGH.

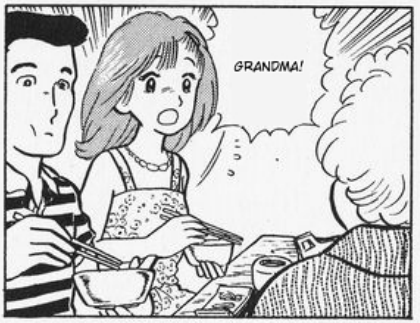
鳥玄
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHEN IT COMES TO THE DECEASED OLD MAN AND THE LEGENDARY 'TORIGEN', THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

WELL, WELL, MOM, LET'S ORDER THE WATER-BOILED CHICKEN FROM 'TORAGEN,' SHALL WE?
PLEASE ENJOY.

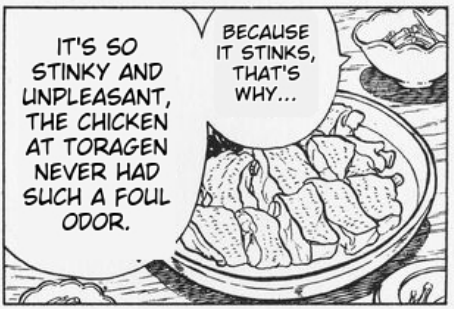
THE SEASONING IS SO REFINED.
IS IT DELICIOUS, GRANDMA?

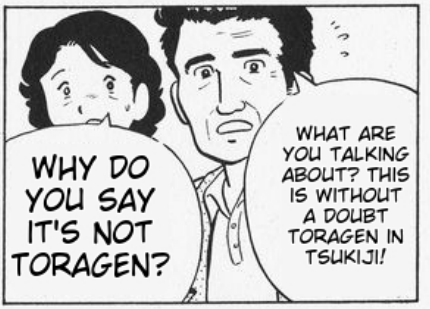
GRANDPA LOVED THE WATER-BOILED DISHES HERE SO MUCH, HE WOULD EAT THREE OR FOUR SERVINGS ALL BY HIMSELF.
THANK YOU, IT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES...

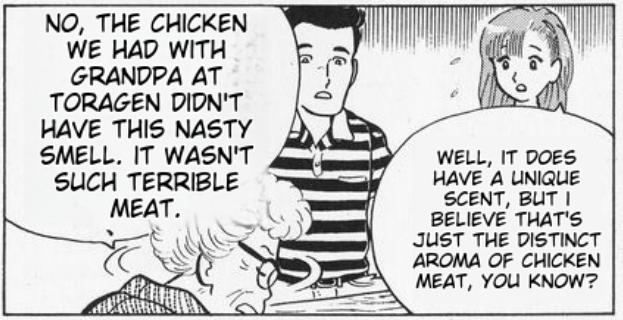
YEAH, IT'S DELICIOUS! IT'S LIGHT, BUT DAMN, IT'S GOOD!


GRANDMA!

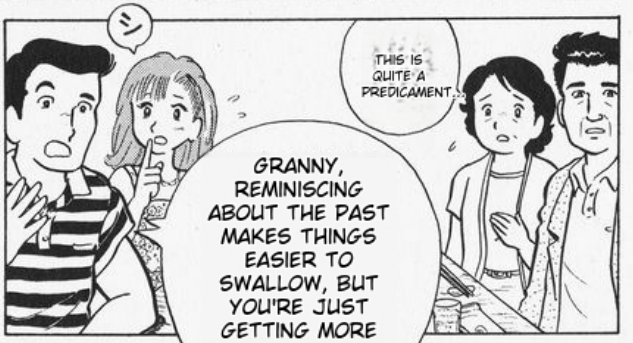
THAT'S THE MIZUTAKI FROM TORAGEN THAT YOU WERE SO EAGER TO EAT.
WHY WON'T YOU EAT IT!?
THIS ISN'T TORAGEN, I'M TELLING YOU...


IT'S SO STINKY AND UNPLEASANT, THE CHICKEN AT TORAGEN NEVER HAD SUCH A FOUL ODOR.
BECAUSE IT STINKS, THAT'S WHY...


WHY DO YOU SAY IT'S NOT TORAGEN?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THIS IS WITHOUT A DOUBT TORAGEN IN TSUKIJI!


NO, THE CHICKEN WE HAD WITH GRANDPA AT TORAGEN DIDN'T HAVE THIS NASTY SMELL. IT WASN'T SUCH TERRIBLE MEAT.
WELL, IT DOES HAVE A UNIQUE SCENT, BUT I BELIEVE THAT'S JUST THE DISTINCT AROMA OF CHICKEN MEAT, YOU KNOW?

SMELLY, YOU SAY? THE MEAT I BROUGHT IS FRESH, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW!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THIS IS QUITE A PREDICAMENT...
GRANNY, REMINISCING ABOUT THE PAST MAKES THINGS EASIER TO SWALLOW, BUT YOU'RE JUST GETTING MORE SENILE...

M-MOM, PLEASE, DON'T CRY...
YOU TRICKED ME AND BROUGHT ME TO A PLACE THAT AIN'T NO 'TORAGEN', FEEDING ME SOME WEIRD BIRD MEAT!
EVERYONE'S JUST MAKING A FOOL OUTTA ME!!
HEY, GRANNY, CHEER UP, WILL YA? C'MON, C'MON...
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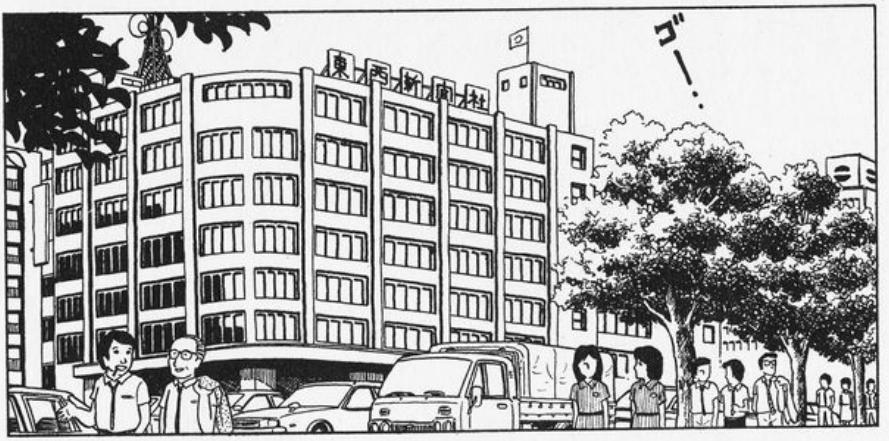
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IT'S SO SAD THAT GRANDMA HAS BECOME SO SENILE... I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL HEARTBROKEN...

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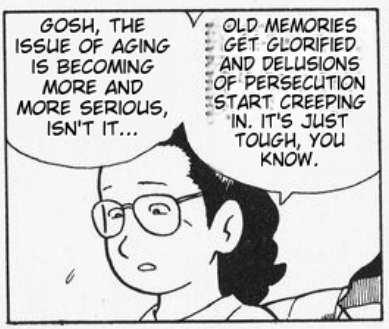
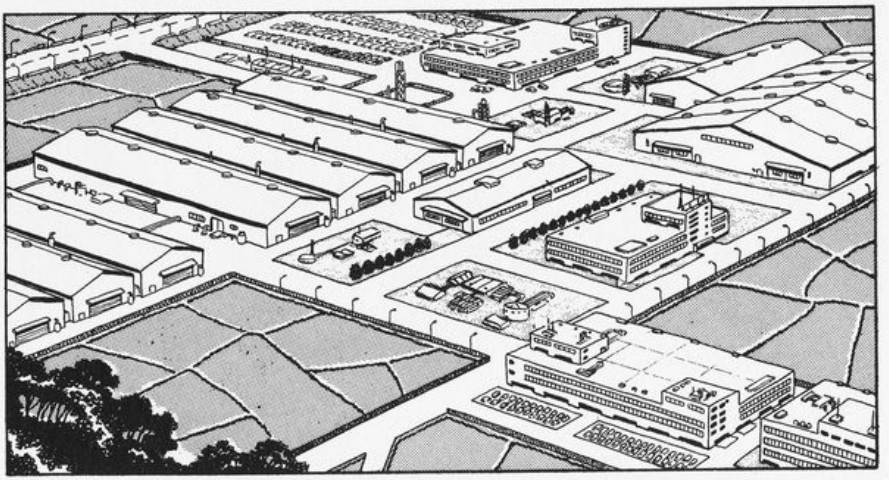
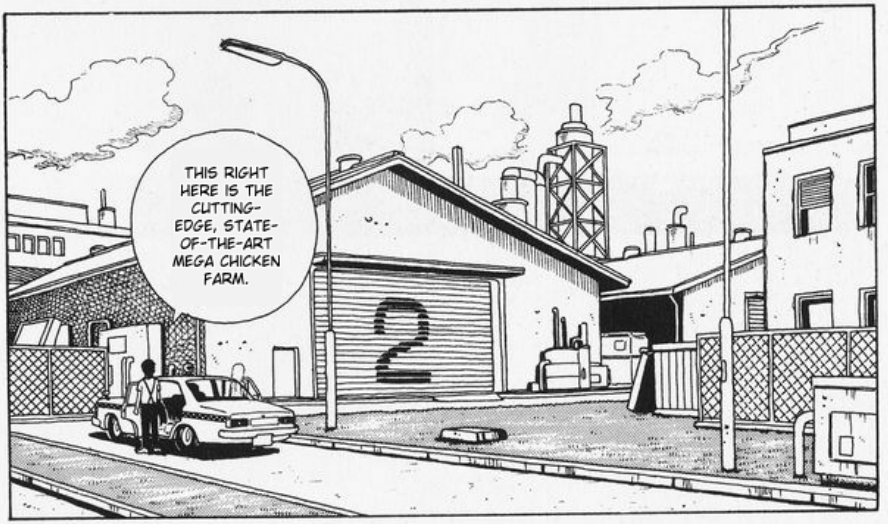

GOSH, THE ISSUE OF AGING IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE SERIOUS, ISN'T IT...
OLD MEMORIES GET GLORIFIED AND DELUSIONS OF PERSECUTION START CREEPING IN. IT'S JUST TOUGH, YOU KNOW.

WOW, IT'S SUCH A SHAME THAT THEY'VE LOST THEIR SENSE OF TASTE. POOR THING.

I WONDER IF IT'S REALLY JUST OLD AGE MESSING WITH YOUR HEAD...
SERIOUSLY, WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?!
WELL, THAT'S WHAT IT IS, YAMAOKA.
HUH?
REPORTING, HUH? WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
...I'M OFF TO DO SOME REPORTING!
IF YOU KEEP DAWDLING, I SWEAR I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND!
OH, RIGHT, I'M COMING!




THIS RIGHT HERE IS THE CUTTING-EDGE, STATE-OF-THE-ART MEGA CHICKEN FARM.
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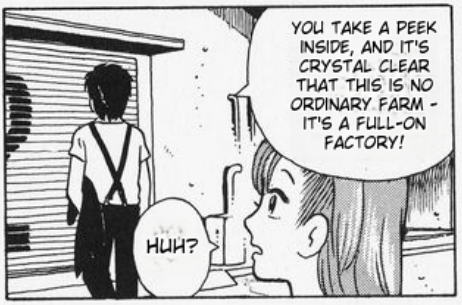
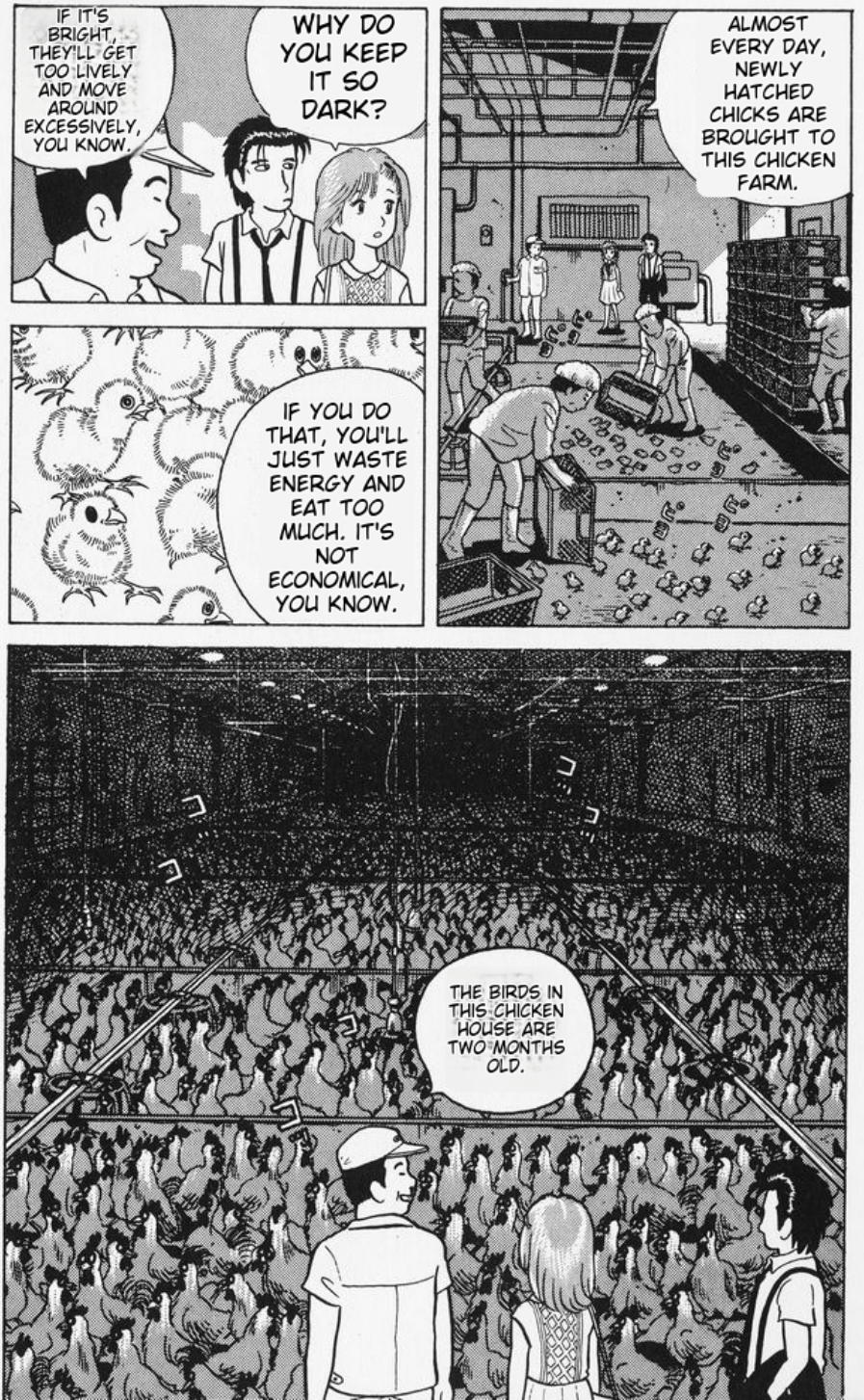
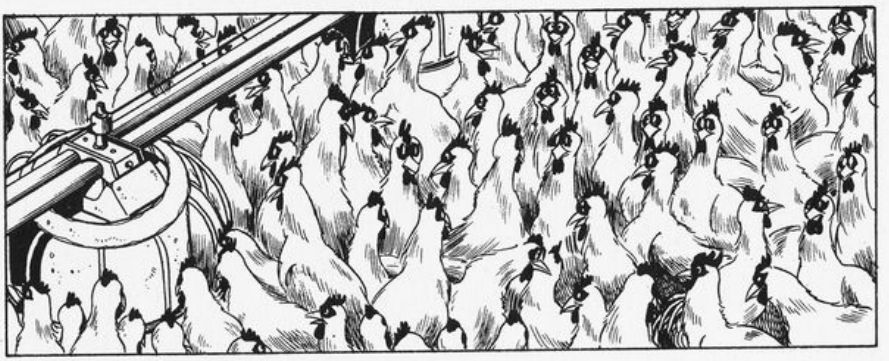

YOU TAKE A PEEK INSIDE, AND IT'S CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT THIS IS NO ORDINARY FARM - IT'S A FULL-ON FACTORY!
HUH?

A CHICKEN FARM? IT'S LIKE A FACTORY IN DISGUISE!

OH, DELICIOUS!

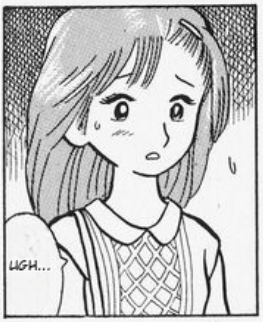




IT'S KINDA CREEPY TO SEE SO MANY BIRDS JUST SITTING STILL IN SUCH A DARK PLACE.
THEY'RE CRAMMED IN HERE, WITH NO EMPTY SPACES AT ALL...

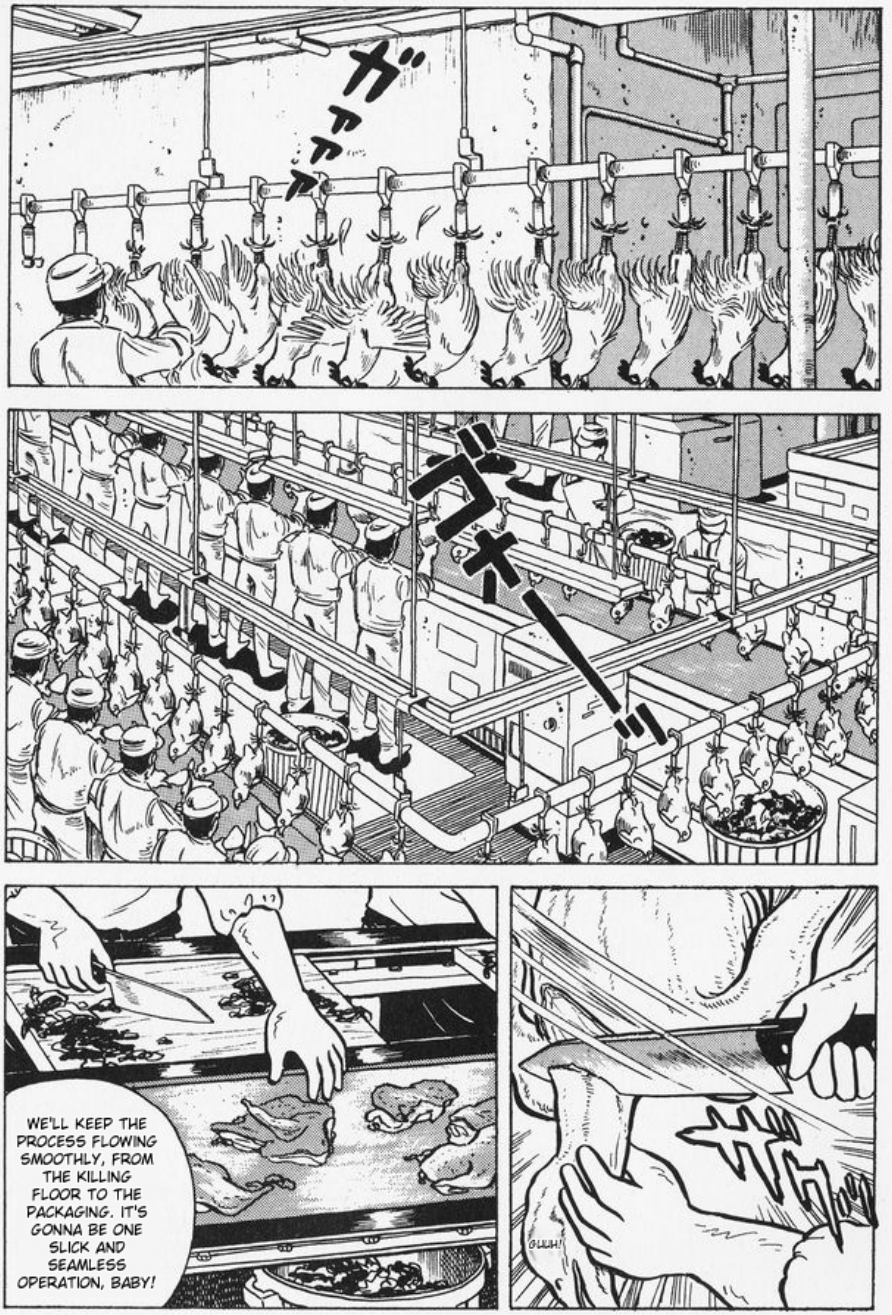
SO, THIS IS THE ONLY TIME BIRDS GET TO SEE THE SUN, HUH...
SHIPPING THEM OUT... WHAT A EUPHEMISM...

AFTER KEEPING THEM FOR OVER TWO MONTHS, THEIR WEIGHT HASN'T INCREASED MUCH COMPARED TO THE AMOUNT OF FOOD THEY CONSUME. IT'S JUST NOT COST-EFFECTIVE, SO WE'RE SHIPPING THEM OUT.


UGH...

WE'RE GONNA KILL THEM.

LIKE, TOTALLY GOURMET!



FOR BOTH HYGIENE AND ECONOMIC REASONS, THIS IS THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION.

IN SUCH A CRAMPED PLACE, HOW ON EARTH CAN YOU FIT SO MANY BIRDS... WHAT IF THEY GET SICK?...
SERIOUSLY, THIS IS A FACTORY THAT PRODUCES MEAT...

.....

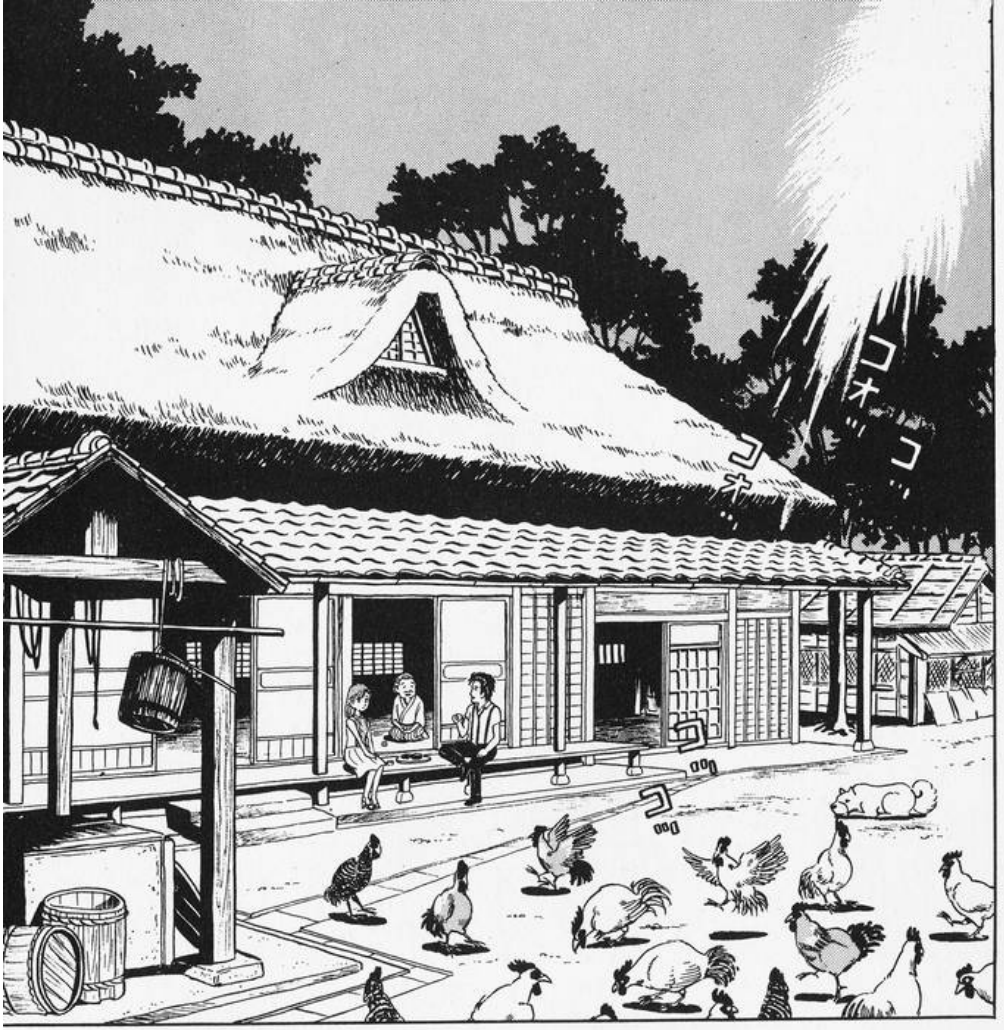
THE FEED CONTAINS ANTIBIOTICS, WHICH HELP PREVENT DISEASES...
WHAT?! SO WE'RE BEING FORCED TO EAT SUCH POULTRY?
ﾁｬ

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE EATING SOMETHING LIKE THAT, IT'S NOT FOOD, IT'S JUST FEED...
HUH?
BUT, THEY SAY IT'S ECONOMICALLY AND HYGIENICALLY APPROVED... IT'S JUST TERRIBLE.
THE BIRDS EAT PROCESSED FEED, AND WE EAT THE BIRDS AS IF THEY WERE OUR OWN PROCESSED FEED. SO, WHERE'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND THE BIRDS?
IF WE'RE BEING FORCED TO EAT SUCH BIRD MEAT, THEN WE'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE BIRDS BEING RAISED IN THE DARK AND SLAUGHTERED. IT'S DOWNRIGHT CRUEL.

OH, O-MACHI GRANNY, HOW ABOUT SHARING SOME OF THAT BIRD MEAT AGAIN?
OH MY, IF IT ISN'T GOOD OL' SHIROU-SAN!

きゃっ!!
バタバタ
HAHAHA, THOSE BIRDS WERE FULL OF ENERGY, I TELL YOU!

BACK IN THE DAY, I USED TO WORK AT HOME... I WAS SO GOOD AT RAISING BIRDS, THAT SOMETIMES PEOPLE WOULD COME OVER JUST TO GET A TASTE OF THAT JUICY BIRD MEAT!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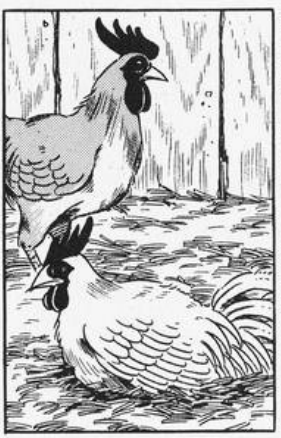

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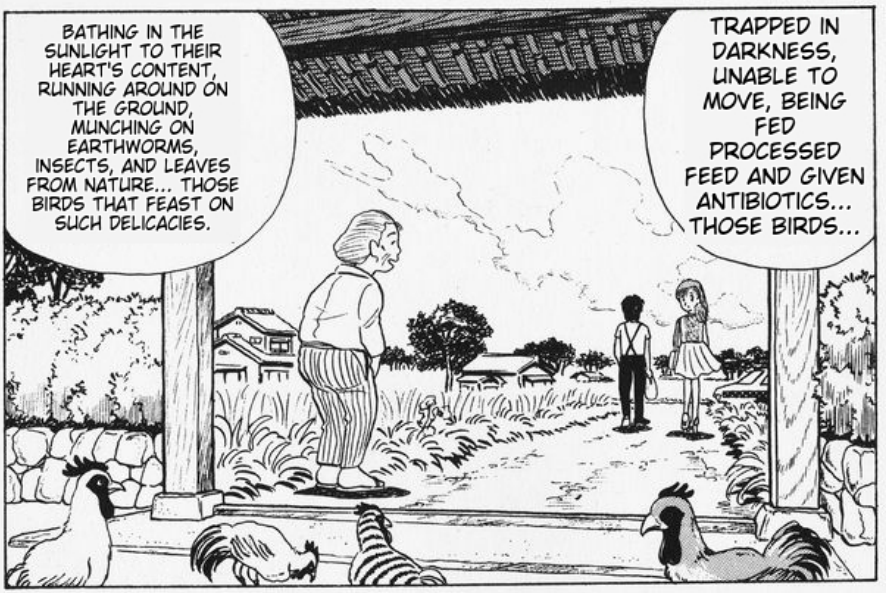
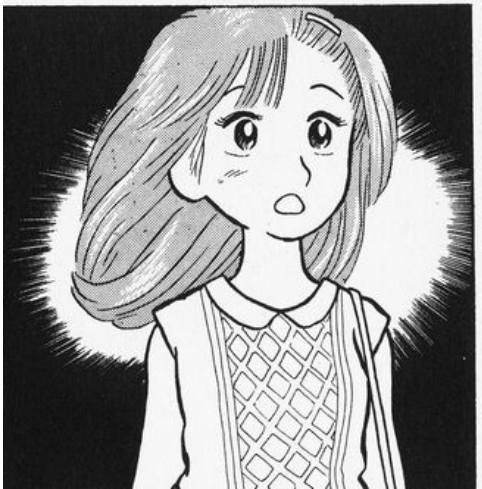
THANKS FOR THE CHICKEN, DEAR.
NO WORRIES, SWING BY AGAIN SOMETIME!

OH, THE DELICIOUS ADVENTURES (PART 1)!





MOM, YUUKO IS SAYING THIS...
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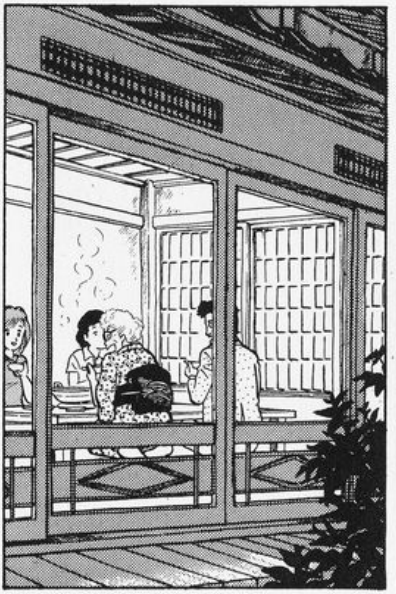

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO!
NO WAY! ISN'T THIS THE SAME PLACE AS LAST TIME? ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME EAT THAT AWFUL-TASTING CHICKEN AGAIN?
GRANDMA, BELIEVE IN ME.

OH, THIS TASTE! THIS TASTE, I TELL YOU!
IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM LAST TIME!

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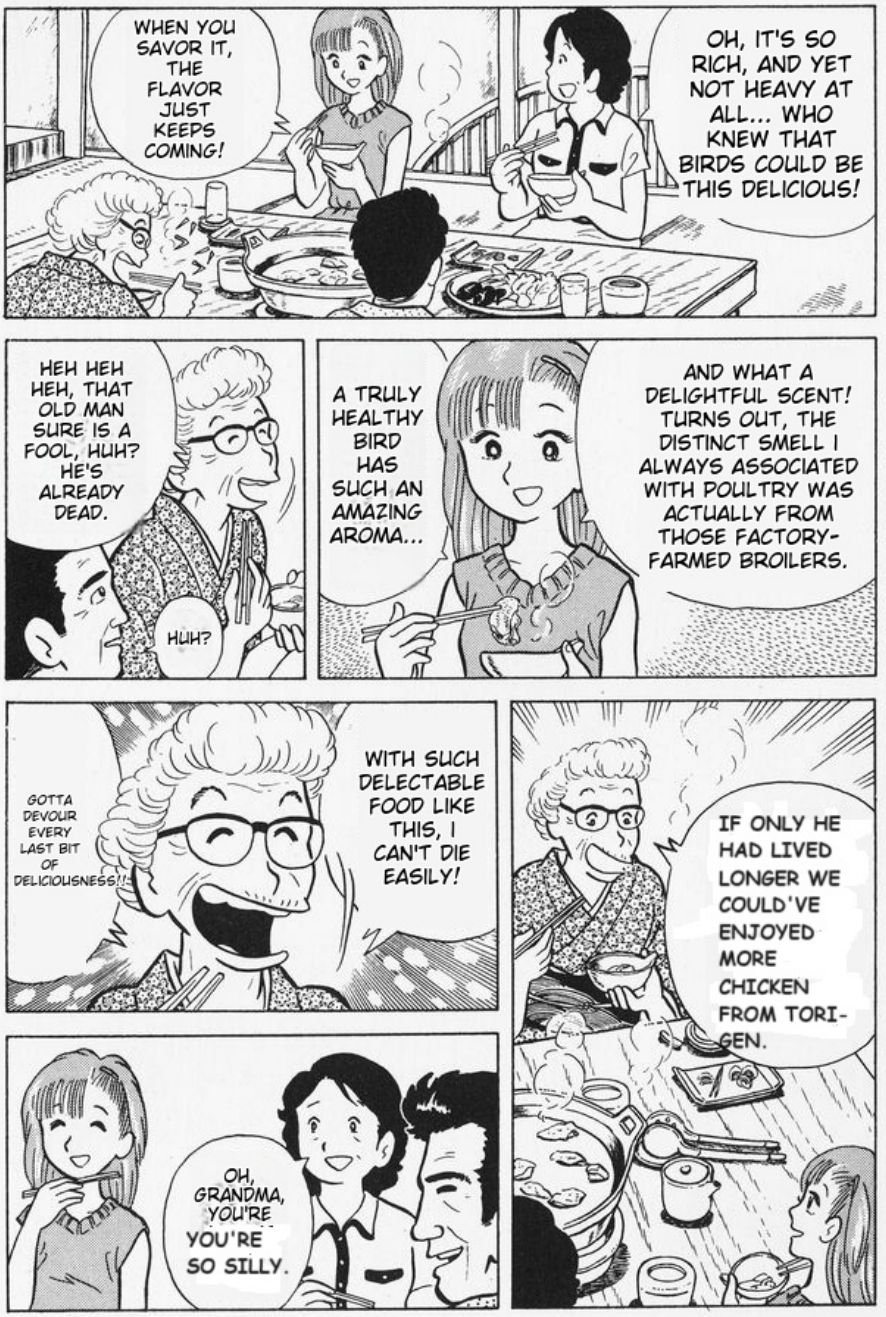
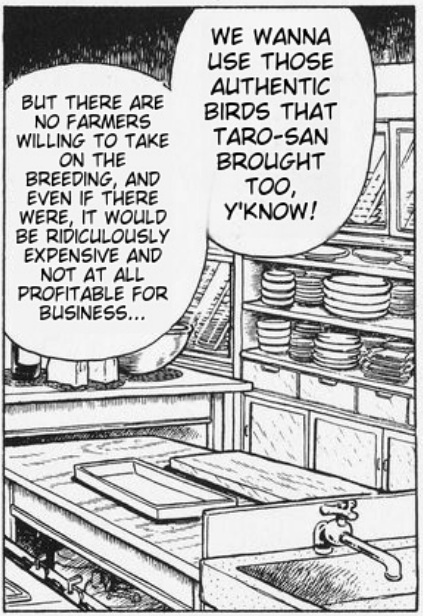
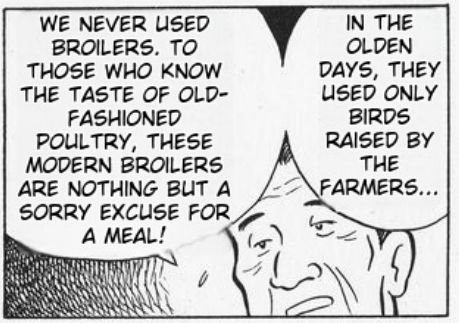

WHEN YOU SAVOR IT, THE FLAVOR JUST KEEPS COMING!
OH, IT'S SO RICH, AND YET NOT HEAVY AT ALL... WHO KNEW THAT BIRDS COULD BE THIS DELICIOUS!
HEH HEH HEH, THAT OLD MAN SURE IS A FOOL, HUH? HE'S ALREADY DEAD.
HUH?
A TRULY HEALTHY BIRD HAS SUCH AN AMAZING AROMA...
AND WHAT A DELIGHTFUL SCENT! TURNS OUT, THE DISTINCT SMELL I ALWAYS ASSOCIATED WITH POULTRY WAS ACTUALLY FROM THOSE FACTORY-FARMED BROILERS.
GOTTA DEVOUR EVERY LAST BIT OF DELICIOUSNESS!!
WITH SUCH DELECTABLE FOOD LIKE THIS, I CAN'T DIE EASILY!
IF ONLY HE HAD LIVED LONGER WE COULD'VE ENJOYED MORE CHICKEN FROM TORI-GEN.
OH, GRANDMA, YOU'RE YOU'RE SO SILLY.

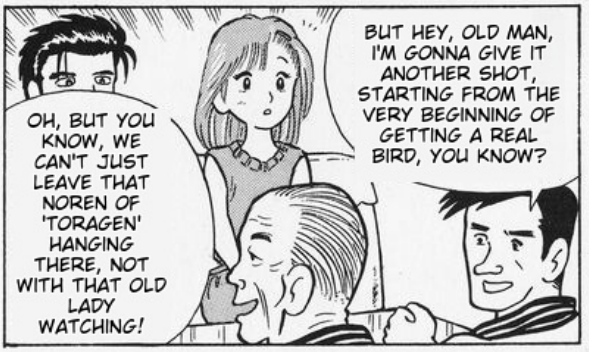
SO, HOW WAS IT? DID YOU ENJOY IT?
WELL, FOR TODAY AT LEAST...
OH MY! A CHARMING YOUNG LAD, ARE YOU THE CHEF HERE?
YAMAOKA-SAN, THANK YOU SO MUCH. THANKS TO YOU, GRANDMA IS COMPLETELY...
COME ON, CHEF, YOU'VE WORKED HARD!
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR THIS...
HELPING YUKO AT WORK, AND NOW WITH GRANDMA. WE APPRECIATE IT.

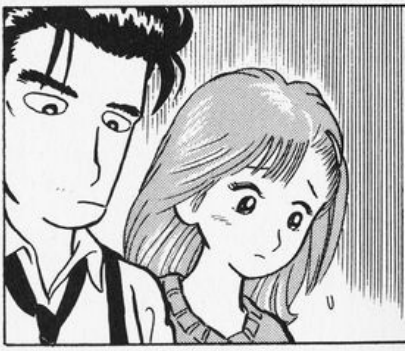
I HAD SOMETHING DELICIOUS AND I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN REBORN, SO I WANT MORE!!
OH, NO, THIS IS...
I ONLY HAVE A SMALL AMOUNT, BUT KEEP IT!
SIGH... WELL...
EVEN I AND MY OLD MAN HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN...
AND THAT ONLY GRANDMA STILL REMEMBERS THE TRUE TASTE OF 'TORIGEN'...
WHEN I HEARD THE STORY, I COULDN'T SAY NO...
SHIRO AND I TRAINED TOGETHER AT THE GOURMET CLUB. SO, HE CALLED ME AND EXPLAINED WHAT WAS GOING ON...


WE WANNA USE THOSE AUTHENTIC BIRDS THAT TARO-SAN BROUGHT TOO, Y'KNOW!
BUT THERE ARE NO FARMERS WILLING TO TAKE ON THE BREEDING, AND EVEN IF THERE WERE, IT WOULD BE RIDICULOUSLY EXPENSIVE AND NOT AT ALL PROFITABLE FOR BUSINESS...


IN THE OLDEN DAYS, THEY USED ONLY BIRDS RAISED BY THE FARMERS...
WE NEVER USED BROILERS. TO THOSE WHO KNOW THE TASTE OF OLD-FASHIONED POULTRY, THESE MODERN BROILERS ARE NOTHING BUT A SORRY EXCUSE FOR A MEAL!

SO, GRANNY WASN'T JUST SUGARCOATING HER PAST MEMORIES, HUH...
HER TASTE IS AS GOOD AS ANYONE'S.


BUT HEY, OLD MAN, I'M GONNA GIVE IT ANOTHER SHOT, STARTING FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF GETTING A REAL BIRD, YOU KNOW?
OH, BUT YOU KNOW, WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THAT NOREN OF 'TORAGEN' HANGING THERE, NOT WITH THAT OLD LADY WATCHING!



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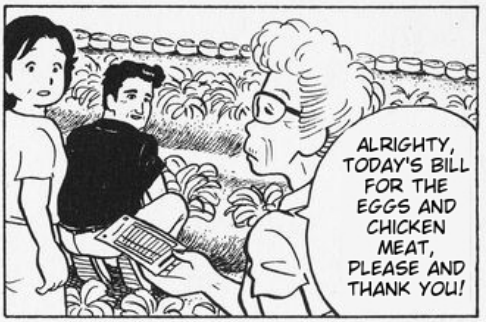
ALRIGHTY, TODAY'S BILL FOR THE EGGS AND CHICKEN MEAT, PLEASE AND THANK YOU!

HMPH, WELL, THIS CHICKEN CRAP SMELLS LIKE DEATH, MAN!

FROM "OISHINBO" VOLUME 1, EPISODE 1, COMPLETE.

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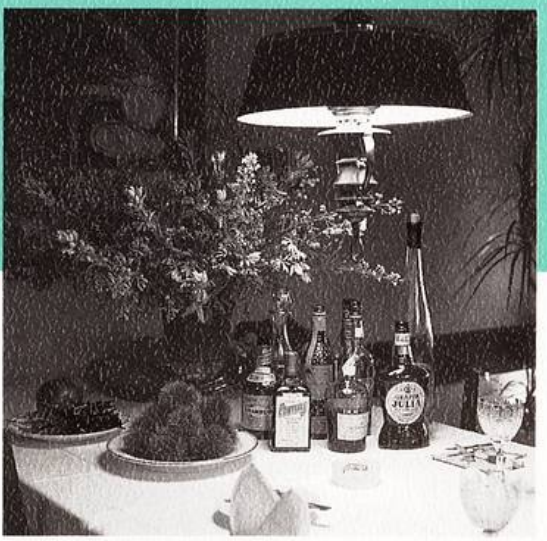

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